



THE INDEPENDENT

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comes out**

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IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + FOUR PAGES OF MUSIC

Revealed: Labour 'dirty tricks' to undermine the Lib Dems

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

THE LABOUR Party has secretly set up a special "dirty tricks" unit to combat the Liberal Democrats, despite the agreement signed by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown for closer co-operation between the two parties.

The Labour move, revealed in an internal document leaked to *The Independent*, triggered Liberal Democrat accusations last night of "hypocrisy" by Mr Blair, who pledged to end the "destructive tribalism" of British politics when he announced his new deal with Mr Ashdown this week.

On Tuesday, as the two leaders finalised their joint statement, a memorandum was sent out by Labour's Millbank headquarters in London. Announcing the "new project", it urged party officials throughout the country to monitor the Liberal Democrats' activities so Labour could "nail their lies and hypocrisy wherever they occur".

Amid fears of heavy Labour losses in next May's local elections, Labour HQ asked local officials to collate any Liberal Democrat propaganda, press coverage or "inside information". The memo said it would be stored on the controversial Excalibur computer database.

The secret Labour operation has heightened fears among Liberal Democrat activists that Mr Blair is determined to neuter their party, despite his calls for an anti-Tory alliance "to ensure the ascendancy of progressive politics".

The disclosure also fuelled a grassroots rebellion against Mr Ashdown, who is already under fire for not consulting the party about his deal with the Prime Minister to widen the



The leaked document which has triggered accusations of hypocrisy against Tony Blair and could further undermine Paddy Ashdown's efforts to secure backing for his agreement with Labour

remit of the cabinet committee on which senior Liberal Democrats discuss constitutional reform.

The Liberal Democrat leader will face strong criticism on Monday when he appeals to the party's ruling federal executive to back his agreement with Labour. Some activists are so furious that they plan to demand a special party conference in the hope it will scupper the deal.

Such a humiliating defeat for his strategy could persuade Mr Ashdown to resign as party leader.

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, said the timing of the Labour operation against his party was curious. "It does seem at odds with the Prime Minister's professed views."

Peter Moore, Liberal Democra

leader on Sheffield City Council, which the party hopes

to gain from Labour in May, said: "On the one hand, Mr Blair talks about getting rid of tribal politics. At the same time, his organisation is sharpening its war axes and arrows. What is more tribal than that?"

Labour sources denied the move was at odds with the Blair-Ashdown pact. One official said: "This is about stopping the Lib Dems saying one thing in one part of the country and another

thing somewhere else. All we are doing is collating information."

Labour was much more positive about the deal, while anxious Liberal Democrat leaders sought to reassure their constituents by playing down its scope.

Mr Blair said he was setting "no limits" to the closer links with the Liberal Democrats. "I have always believed that where politicians can agree, it is sensible for them to work together.

I am not a tribalist in politics." But he made clear the Liberal Democrats would not be able to push the Government into early entry into the single European currency.

In the Commons, left-wing Labour MPs expressed their doubts about the new deal. Tony Benn said the voters had elected a Labour government, not a Lib-Lab one. "The relations between two political par-

ties in this House are not a private matter between two leaders, but concern the relationship between the legislature and the executive," Dennis Skinner attacked "tin-pot arrangements with these rag-tag and bobtail". And he added: "They are totally unreliable. As soon as we get rid of this barny idea the better." Jack Cunningham, Mr Blair's cabinet "enforcer", and Alan Beith, the Liberal Demo-

crat deputy leader, held their first meeting to review the workings of the joint cabinet committee yesterday. Dr Cunningham said: "We hope to identify issues to broaden the agenda of discussion and look at ways we can work together in the interests of the country. We agreed to consider how we might strengthen the process."

Steve Richards,
Review, page 3

Britons flown out of Iraq war zone

THE FOREIGN Office warned all British nationals to leave Iraq immediately amid signs yesterday that a countdown to military action had begun.

British tourists in vulnerable Middle Eastern countries began streaming home and England's participation in an under-18 football tournament in Israel was cancelled. Hundreds of holidaymakers in Israel were being flown home last night and tour operators were cancelling flights to the region.

The football cancellation came after the Football Association asked the European Federation, Uefa, to postpone next week's event involving Spain, Andorra and Israel.

The United States and Britain continued to muster forces for a possible attack yesterday, as the Cabinet gave formal approval for a massive assault against military targets.

With Saddam Hussein remaining defiant, there was a mood of resignation in Downing Street that the diplomatic track had failed. The Secretary of State for Defence, George

BY COLIN BROWN
in London
AND ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

Robertson, spoke of the "sad inevitability" of the use of force.

Washington warned that attacks on Iraq would not be pin-prick strikes. "They will be significant should they be carried out," William Cohen, the US Defense Secretary, said. In Iraq, the Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said he saw "no light at the end of the tunnel".

Mr Robertson briefed the Cabinet before ministers approved the use of the 12 RAF Tornado bombers in support of US air attacks, which will be by Cruise missiles, if the Iraqi leader does not back down.

Tony Blair was engaged in diplomatic efforts to maintain unity in Europe. "The next step is action if Saddam is not prepared to come back into compliance with his word," he said. Mr Robertson said: "There is no timescale of what will happen to Saddam but a very clear message has to go out."

Dissent came from Tam Dalyell, a Labour backbencher MP, who warned that the bombing might resemble the Second World War blitz on Dresden.

Downing Street issued a dossier to MPs detailing breaches by President Saddam, including allegations that traces of nerve gas were found on warheads. "He will never give up his weapons of mass destruction, unless forced to do so," it said.

The US dispatched B-52 bombers and F-117 Stealth fighters to the region, sending a dozen of each to its military base on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Crucial support came from eight Arab states. "The Iraqi government will be solely responsible for all repercussions resulting from its decision to block Unscow," said Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates at a meeting in Doha, Qatar.

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Scientists create a cow-human hybrid

SCIENTISTS HAVE fused the nucleus of a human cell with an egg cell taken from a cow to create the world's first embryo-like clone of an adult man.

The human-cow hybrid did not survive beyond a few days but it developed to the stage of a 32-cell embryo in an experiment that has far-reaching ethical implications.

An American biotechnology company, Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), based in Worcester, Massachusetts, yesterday stunned the scientific community by announcing in a press statement that it had created the hybrid embryo three years ago from the cells of one of its own scientists.

The company's aim was to generate human embryonic "stem cells", which are the vital progenitor cells of all the body's many different tissues.

"This advance, based on fusing a human somatic (non-reproductive) cell with a bovine egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed, may enable the production of an unlimited supply of such stem

cells for transplant medicine," the company said.

Although it is thought unlikely that a human-cow hybrid embryo would ever be able to be implanted in a womb and develop normally, the research will raise fears that the company may be pioneering a form of human cloning.

However Michael West, ACT's president and chief executive officer, denied that the research would lead to the full cloning of an adult. "We will

not use this technology to clone human beings," he said yesterday.

The research, which has not been published in a scientific journal, was performed by Jose Cibelli, an Argentine-born scientist at the University of Massachusetts, which has a commercial link with ACT.

Dr Cibelli took 52 of his own cells - either white blood cells or skin cells from the inside of his cheek - and fused each with a cow egg. Most failed to thrive, according to the *New York Times* report, but one embryo grew and divided five times.

Dr Cibelli and his university colleague James Robl, who is well known in the area of animal cloning, have filed patents on the process with ACT controlling the commercial rights.

Asked if he was concerned about destroying 52 potential twins of himself, Dr Cibelli told *The New York Times*: "I never thought about it. But if you use your own cells to treat a disease you may have, you are not taking cells from another person selfishly."



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worth £2m became
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FOOD & DRINK
SPECIAL

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Out with the roast beef

(in with the murgh muzzallam)

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SUNDAY LUNCH?

THE BEST WRITING IS IN THE INDEPENDENT EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE,
MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGSTON, SUE ARNOLD

Mandelson attacks press intrusion

PETER MANDELSON, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, stepped into the row over media intrusion into politicians' private lives last night with a warning that the public was more interested in "the real issues".

Speaking at a seminar in Madrid, Mr Mandelson said the success of the Democrats in this month's United States congressional elections proved that the Monica Lewinsky affair had no impact on the voters.

The minister, who was "outed" as a homosexual before the same fate befell Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, said that the American experience should serve as an example to the British media.

In a coded attack on the press coverage of the downfall

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

of Ron Davies, the former secretary of state for Wales, as well as himself, he said President Bill Clinton's continuing popularity proved the voters were uninterested in such stories.

The outcome of the US congressional elections has been seen as another Houdini act by the President, as yet another comeback for the Comeback Kid. That's true.

"It's also been seen as the American people ignoring scandal, and concentrating on the real issues. There is a lesson to be learnt there."

Mr Mandelson is known to be opposed to a privacy law, but his comments reinforce the Government's view that the

press should be more responsible and recognise the public mood on MPs' private lives.

Ministers have been boosted by polls by tabloid newspapers that claimed the public did not want to know the details of what politicians did in the privacy of their own home.

Mr Mandelson made his remarks as he addressed a seminar of the Spanish Socialist Party on Labour's vision of the Third Way between old-style socialism and an unregulated free market.

Launching a Spanish translation of Tony Blair's recent Fabian pamphlet on the subject, he said that the Democrat victories proved the far right was losing support across the globe.

The victory for the Democrats was a victory for ideas. Its message to the Republicans in Congress and especially to their ex-leader Newt Gingrich was clear: The extreme right is losing.

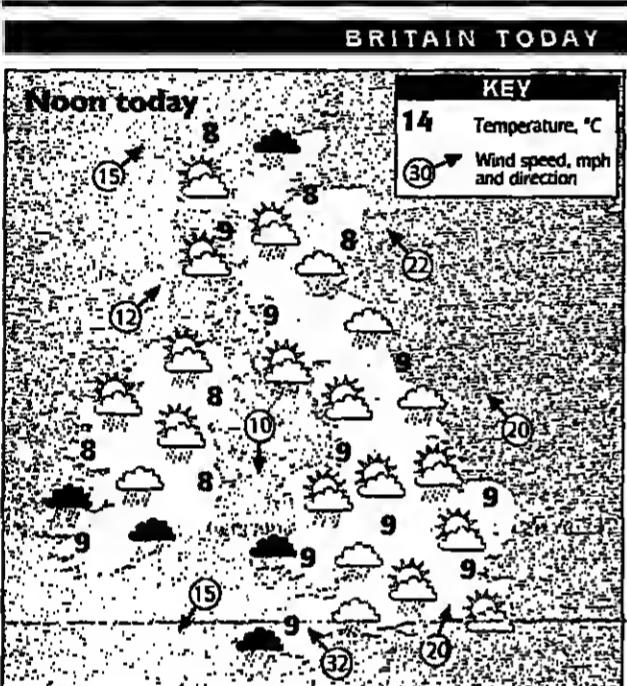
By contrast, centre-left parties that attempted to modernise social democracy had scored repeated successes right across Europe and now governed 13 out of the 15 European Union countries.

Delivering the first analysis of the US elections by a cabinet minister, Mr Mandelson added that the only Republicans who did well were those such as George Bush Jr and Jeb Bush. "Why? Because they moved towards the centre, away from the right," he said.

David Macintyre interviews 'Sun' editor David Vella and Review Front



Designers standing by the Greenwich meridian, London, to launch the Royal Mail Millennium Collection: (l-r) 'Linking the nation' by John Lawrence; 'Liberation by bike', Sara Fanelli; 'Jet Travel', George Hardie; 'Timekeeping', David Gentleman; 'Steam power', Peter Howson; and 'Photography' by Zafer and Barbara Baran Brian Harris



Mowlam lifts ban on LVF

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE BANNING order on the Loyalist Volunteer Force, the LVF, was lifted last night by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, provoking calls for the hand-over of weapons to start soon.

Mo Mowlam said the banning order on the Loyalist paramilitary force – founded by Billy Wright who was shot dead in the Maze by the Republican Irish National Liberation Army, the INLA – was lifted on the basis of security information.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said it was too soon to lift the banning orders on three other republican groups: the Continuity IRA, which has not declared a ceasefire; the Real IRA, which was responsible for the Omagh bomb massacre and the INLA. They have both declared ceasefires.

The LVF was involved in a spate of tit-for-tat killings last January sparked by the shooting of Billy Wright when six Catholics, not associated with terrorism, were murdered.

Mo Mowlam said: "I am now satisfied that they have established a complete and unequivocal ceasefire and over a significant period of time, since May 1998, they have demonstrated that that ceasefire is being maintained."

She said the lifting of the ban also recognised the significant contacts that the LVF had made, via an unnamed inter-



Mowlam: Ban on LVF lifted

mediary, with the body set up to handle decommissioning of terrorist weapons in Ulster.

The lifting of the ban has to be approved by Parliament, and it was given the support of the Tories. But Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Ulster, urged the Loyalist group to show a lead by fulfilling its promise by decommissioning its illegal arms and explosives.

He also called on the Prime Minister to call a halt to the release of prisoners under the Good Friday Agreement until the IRA, the LVF and other groups have started decommissioning their weapons. The LVF has 19 prisoners in the Maze and 13 in another Ulster prison.

"This is an ideal opportunity for Tony Blair to tell all the paramilitaries that there will be no more early release of terrorist prisoners until there is substantial and verifiable decommissioning," Mr Mackay said.

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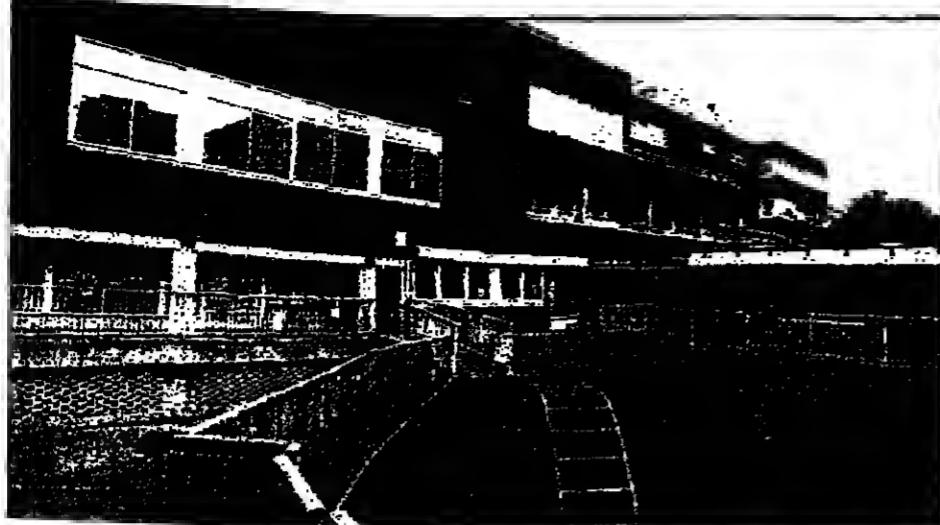


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Nursery scandal: Newcastle council publishes damning report on the childcare staff who molested their charges



Betrayal of the innocent infants by the carers they trusted

PARENTS OF children who were sexually abused while ostensibly safe in the care of a Newcastle nursery school wept yesterday as an inquiry team delivered one of the most damning reports in the history of childcare.

Children as young as two years old were taken out of the Shieldfield Nursery and used for the sexual gratification of a man three years ago after the collapse of the prosecution of nursery assistants Chris Lillie, then 30, and Dawn Reed, then 23. Angry parents tried to storm the dock and shouted "Hang them" after the judge ruled that video-tape evidence from a girl alleged to have been raped by Mr Lillie was inadmissible.

A child told the inquiry about eating sweets while being abused, sometimes by more than one man. Another child talked of being hurt by a man with other adults present - "Neil, who had a camcorder. He was laughing," and Doreen, "who was in bed with Chris".

The children were threatened that if they revealed what was happening, they or their family would die.

"A man will shoot Daddy," they told the inquiry.

The scandal of multiple

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
AND PAUL LASHMAR

abuse at Shieldfield Nursery and in flats, houses and caravans beyond, came to light in 1993 after a distressed child told his mother he had been assaulted. The independent inquiry was set up by the council three years ago after the collapse of the prosecution of nursery assistants Chris Lillie, then 30, and Dawn Reed, then 23. Angry parents tried to storm the dock and shouted "Hang them" after the judge ruled that video-tape evidence from a girl alleged to have been raped by Mr Lillie was inadmissible.

Mr Lillie and Ms Reed have not been seen since the trial - Ms Reed is thought to have changed her name and is living south of the Tyne, while Mr Lillie has left the area.

They are the main characters in the gut-wrenching 400-page report, published by the city council yesterday. But the inquiry team said it was clear others outside the nursery were involved in abusing children "for their own gratification

must have the right to speak".

Richard Barker, the head of child and family studies at the University of Northumbria, who led the review team, said: "The challenge for the legal profession is to try and ensure that on the one hand, adults are not wrongly convicted but on the other, the general truth that emerges from the testimony of a large number of young children should be evaluated in court so that these young children get justice."

Mr Lillie and Ms Reed have not been seen since the trial - Ms Reed is thought to have changed her name and is living south of the Tyne, while Mr Lillie has left the area.

The council was condemned for a "complacent and insular approach" to the delivery of social services in the early Nineties. Two members of the city council staff have been suspended because of the report's findings. They are believed to be Peter Blythe, the childcare manager responsible for appointing the inexperienced Mr Lillie, and Susan Evington, the officer in charge of the nursery at the time, who is criticised for failing to monitor staff outings with children and not responding appropriately to parents' concerns.

The report said references and police checks were not adequately taken up and Mr

Blythe is "severely criticised" for the unprofessional way he appointed Mr Lillie, someone he had known since his days as a residential worker, when Ms Lillie was in care.

There is also criticism of Sir Jeremy Beecham, then leader of the city council and now chairman of the Local Government Association, whose law firm represented Mr Lillie. Stefan Cross, deputy chair of the Social Services Committee, was a member of the legal practice representing Dawn Reed. One of the report's 75 recommendations was that legal firms involving elected councillors should not accept cases which involve action against council employees over their work.

The report goes on to detail how one of the children "believed he had recognised Sir Jeremy by his voice on a television programme as being someone who had sexually abused him when Chris Lillie and Dawn Reed had taken him to unknown venues".

The allegation was reported to senior police officers and social service staff and the child was assessed by a psychologist to form a view about the strength of his evidence.

There was no corroborative link between the disclosure and Sir Jeremy, and the inquiry team accepted the council leader's innocence.

"There was no organised planned conspiracy by Newcastle City Council officers and

elected members to procure children at Shieldfield Nursery for abuse, or to cover up what had happened at the nursery and elsewhere," the team concluded. "We do think that there are individuals, Chris Lillie and Dawn Reed, who did probably conspire with others unknown, but we conclude that these others were not officers or elected members of the city council."

Mr Barker called for tighter regulation of nursery workers, with the names of anyone sacked for abuse automatically going on a central list. Mr Lillie and Ms Reed are still listed by the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education as qualified nursery nurses.

The council currently comes across about 50 cases a week of people fraudulently claiming to be qualified.

"We believe that this national system of recording qualifications should be amended as it is currently extremely misleading and potentially dangerous," said the report.

In June the then Home Office Minister Alan Michael announced a major party would look into ways of preventing sex offenders from working with children. A part of this is likely to be a central register of people who are deemed unsuitable.

Families who came together for support after the abuse was uncovered are now considering suing the city council for negligence in its care of their children.

Pressure made Sir Jeremy ill

BY PAUL LASHMAR

SIR JEREMY Beecham was found collapsed in his car a week before his firm's client, Christopher Lillie, went on trial in 1994 to face abuse charges.

According to reports an overdose was suspected as an empty tablet bottle was found in the Renault. Passing motorists had raised the alarm and Sir Jeremy was rushed to hospital.

He is a partner in Henderson, Beecham & Peacock, a major Newcastle solicitors' practice and at the time was also the leader of the Labour-run Newcastle City Council. A leading national figure in local government, he was chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and had just been knighted.

He is a partner in Henderson, Beecham & Peacock, a major Newcastle solicitors' practice and at the time was also the leader of the Labour-run Newcastle City Council. A leading national figure in local government, he was chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and had just been knighted.



Beecham: Depression

The parents of the children abused by Lillie and Dawn Reed were unhappy that Lillie was being represented by a firm run by the leader of the council responsible for running the nursery school. Claire Routledge, lawyer to a group of the parents, said she wrote complaining about a possible conflict of interest. Sir Jeremy says he declared this interest "promptly" with the council.

A spokesman for Sir Jeremy said that the case had been handled by a colleague.

After his collapse in July 1994 Sir Jeremy was in hospital for three weeks, suffering from depression. In November that year he resigned as

difficult to do a number of jobs at the same time and I had three," he said at the time.

Sir Jeremy had been leader of Newcastle City Council for 17 years, having joined the Labour Party at the tender age of 15 in 1959. In 1967 he became councillor for Benwell, a deprived area on the north bank of the River Tyne.

In a statement issued yesterday Sir Jeremy expressed "profound sympathy" for the abused children and their families. He repeated he had "no connection with these appalling events. People in public life are particularly vulnerable to allegations made without any foundation in fact, as the inquiry team acknowledges."

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Carry On Smuggling episode jammed £7m heroin in tunnel

BY KATHARINE BUTLER

IT WAS an attempt to carry out a serious piece of heroin trafficking. But it ended with a £1m haul of drugs stuck in the Blackwall Tunnel in a scene more akin to a *Carry On* movie.

As the gang's drug-filled lorry jammed against the roof in the northbound lane, their accomplices returned to see what was wrong and their car became trapped in the southbound lane.

The lorry became stuck just as the evening rush hour began, the jams spread and large areas of East London were gridlocked for several hours.

The scene was recounted at Southwark Crown Court in London yesterday. While presenting happy Customs officials with a £7.28m high-quality haul, the "cock-up" factor - as

Turkish national from Edmonton, north London, was found not guilty.

The five-week trial heard that to begin with the men's meticulous planning paid off. The massive articulated lorry, bought months earlier at auction, was fitted with a false fuel tank inside a secret compartment used to hide the 65.84-kilogram consignment, which Karimca is believed to have collected in Turkey.

It was so well installed that Customs officials at Dover failed to detect anything wrong when he arrived by cross-Channel ferry from Zeebrugge, Belgium, in February this year.

Confident everything was going according to plan, he then drove the lorry and its illicit load to Medway Services on the M2 in Kent, where he set

down for the night. But Customs and Excise's National Investigation Service had been tipped off.

Then next day, Shamsollahi and Eris were followed as they drove down from London to rendezvous with Karimca. Once there, they spent the next two hours trying hard not to recognise one another in the motorway stop's Burger King.

As soon as Eris arrived, they suddenly seemed to discover they knew one another after all, and shortly afterwards left the service station in convoy.

Forty-five minutes later the mathematical impossibility of trying to fit the over-tall lorry into the 14ft 8in high Blackwall Tunnel triggered electronic warnings and the end of the gang's short but memorable criminal career.

THE BILL

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TV FROM THE HEART

Lib-Lab pact: An insider warns of 'blood on the carpet' as the Liberal Democrat leader is accused of 'cosying up to Blair'

Party set to take Ashdown to task

PADDY ASHDOWN faces a showdown with his party's grassroots on Monday over the agreement he struck with Tony Blair to bring Labour and the Liberal Democrats closer together.

The Liberal Democrats ruling body, its federal executive, will give Mr Ashdown a rough ride when he appeals for its support for his decision to extend the remit of the Cabinet committee which includes senior Liberal Democrats.

"There will be blood on the carpet," one insider said.

Some grassroots Liberal Democrat activists are considering a plan to call a special party conference, which they believe would reject the agreement, possibly provoking Mr Ashdown to resign.

The fears that Mr Ashdown is "cosying up" too closely to Mr Blair will be heightened by today's news that Labour's Millbank headquarters is set

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

ing up a special "dirty tricks" unit to combat the Liberal Democrats. An internal Labour document, leaked to *The Independent*, reveals that party officials are being asked to gather "inside information" on the Liberal Democrats to be stored on the controversial Millbank computer database, called Excel.

Mr Ashdown's move, to forge closer links with the Government, intend to raise the document as evidence of Mr Blair's "hypocrisy" over relations with their party. "His control freaks at Millbank are out of control - now they want to snoop on us, control us and kill us off," said one senior Liberal Democrat.

Even before Labour's move was revealed, Mr Ashdown faced big problems persuading his party executive to endorse



Tony Blair during his speech at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow yesterday, in which he defended the British Union Jeff J Mitchell

extending the work of the Cabinet committee from constitutional reform to other areas.

Donnachadh McCarthy, a member of the executive, accused Mr Ashdown of breaking the party's rules by agreeing his joint statement with Mr Blair without consulting his party. "It is a betrayal of everything that Mr Ashdown ever said he stood for," said Mr McCarthy. "It is a betrayal of pluralist politics and a three-party system."

At Monday's meeting, Mr Ashdown is expected to adopt the "back me or sack me" approach he had to deploy on Wednesday night at a heated gathering of his MPs. Allies believe he will win a vote of confidence but claim that he would not lose too much sleep if he was forced to resign over the issue.

Wednesday's meeting went on for three-and-a-half hours, with many of the 37 MPs who spoke expressing their anger about the agreement. Several complained they were being "bounced" into accepting it while others said the Liberal Democrats would be prevented from criticising government policies on health, education, welfare and Europe. "There was a lot of anger; people didn't pull their punches," one MP said.

However, Mr Ashdown gradually won round most rebels by

promising that the MPs would have to approve talks with the Government on specific policy issues. Some dissidents were reassured by his optimism that Mr Blair would endorse electoral reform.

After winning the backing of his "shadow cabinet" yesterday, Mr Ashdown sought to calm his party's nerves by putting a very different gloss on the agreement to Downing Street. He stressed that further co-op-

eration with the Government would be in "tightly defined and carefully controlled areas".

The Cabinet endorsed the new deal yesterday but Mr Blair had problems on his backbenchers too. Lynne Jones, chairman of the left-wing Campaign group of MPs, said the Labour leadership's first loyalty should be to its members and MPs and it should not forge alliances without consulting them.

BY ANDREW GRICE

TONY BLAIR stepped up Labour's campaign to combat the threat from the Scottish National Party yesterday by claiming that it would damage health and other public services north of the border.

Speaking in Glasgow, the Prime Minister warned that the SNP would divide families against each other by denying Scottish citizenship to the children and grandchildren of Scots who were born outside the country.

Attacking a new SNP policy statement, Mr Blair said: "They would make children of Scots foreign in Scotland and would divide families throughout Scotland into two categories - citizens and foreigners. In areas where barriers should be coming down, nothing could make clearer the barriers that they would impose."

If the SNP took control of the Scottish Parliament in next May's elections, Mr Blair warned, the priority it would give to separation would deny resources to public services.

"While Labour is investing in the National Health Service, the nationalists would first invest in the new apparatus of a national government," he said.

Rivals refuse to do a deal on Wales

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

perceived as the underdog in the race, an increasing number of MPs were indicating support for him.

In an indication of the bitterness of the contest ahead, the Michael camp said that some MPs were scared by Mr Morgan's "separatist" language and accused him of being too close to the nationalists, Plaid Cymru.

Llew Smith, staunch anti-devolution campaigner and MP for Blaenau Gwent, was said last night to have pledged his backing for Mr Michael.

Mr Morgan's supporters countered that he had the overwhelming support of MPs, MEPs and assembly candidates. Constituency chairmen had also backed his call for a true Omov ballot of all parts of the electoral college.

A spokesman for the Welsh Labour Party said that Ms Gale had rung all three candidates and concluded there was "no prospect of reaching agreement on a unity ticket".

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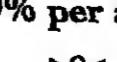
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Schools paid by
MPs told CJD fear pregnancy

ing up to big
Labour takes
fight to SNP

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 13 November 1998

HOME NEWS/5

Vice-chancellor quits university that taught curry-making and kite-flying



Mike Fitzgerald, who resigned as Thames Valley University's vice-chancellor yesterday

BRITAIN'S MOST colourful university vice-chancellor resigned yesterday after a devastating watchdog report said that degree standards could no longer be guaranteed.

Mike Fitzgerald, 47, who was the youngest ever university vice-chancellor when he was appointed in 1991 and who sports an earring and pony-tail, left Thames Valley University "in the interests of the university" after the unprecedented move by higher education regulators.

They said they no longer had confidence in the university's ability to award degrees.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

said standards at the university were "at risk" and the Higher Education Funding Council announced it was sending in an external review team to work with the university on an action plan.

Thames Valley's colourful courses have included kite-flying

and Indian cooking.

Universities cannot be stripped of their degree-awarding powers, but yesterday's move represents the most serious action ever taken to censure academics over standards.

Andrew Peake, president of the National Union of Students, said the report had serious implications for the university's 28,000 students. He said: "Students will be paying cash over the table to study and they want value for money. If you buy

BY JUDITH JUDD
AND BEN RUSSELL

a jumper and find it's got a hole in it you can take it back to the shop. You can't take back three years of your life."

John Randall, the QAA chief executive, said: "Standards at Thames Valley are at risk. It is vital that urgent steps are taken to protect the interests of students and to secure public confidence in the university."

Baroness Blackstone, the higher education minister, demanded "firm and decisive action to address this failure".

Alarmed about the former Polytechnic of West London, based in Ealing and Slough, surfaced last year when the university invited the agency to investigate allegations of "academic dumbing down".

Because of an industrial dispute more than 200,000 pieces of students' work had been left unmarked and senior managers proposed that students should pass their exams with marks of 30 per cent rather than 40 per cent.

The QAA report suggests that the university was a shambles, with managers unable to keep track of students and their marks. Management, admissions policies and quality controls are all heavily criticised. Independent consultants found no evidence that people had been awarded degrees

universities might also need help in maintaining standards.

Thames Valley governors said they were taking decisive action. Sheila Forbes, chairman of the governors, said students were being effectively taught and "armed with their qualification from the university do make a positive contribution in their places of work and in their communities".

Thames Valley's troubles started after it introduced its New Learning Environment, replacing traditional degrees with "resource-based learning" in which students were free to make up "mix and match" degrees from a number of modules of study.

The report said: "We encountered a significant number of staff who expressed concern that reductions in the amount and intensity of student assessment under the New Learning Environment had seriously jeopardised the standards of the resulting degrees."

The report stressed that Thames Valley university did attract some high calibre students who reached the accepted degree standard.

But it said: "... there is a question to be asked whether the admissions policy is encouraging unreasonable expectations among students who are unlikely to achieve that standard, however much support they are given."



Thames Valley University

Schools may be 'paid by results'

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

SCHOOLS MAY receive extra funds for good exam results for the first time since the 19th century, under proposals being considered by ministers.

Those which reach government targets for test and exam results, cutting truancy and expulsions would be entitled to more money.

There would also be rewards for schools with improving results. Head teachers in the schools would then have to decide which teachers should receive more pay.

The system of "payment by results" has not been used since the end of the last century when it was abandoned after complaints that teachers were "teaching to the test".

Conservatives considered paying schools sixth forms by results before the last election but dropped the idea.

If the plans are agreed, they will form part of a government Green Paper to be published next month, which is likely to

success, given that we ensure that less successful schools are getting the money they need," too."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has ruled out the idea of crude "payment by results" for individual teachers. The Green Paper is expected to propose a new salary structure for teachers based on a tougher system of appraisal.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wants a clear link to be established between pay and performance in return for the £10bn extra promised for schools over the next three years.

The National Association of Head Teachers is proposing that classroom teachers should be able to earn an extra £3,000 without taking on extra responsibilities.

Heads would decide which teachers should receive the money, subject to external checks.

MPs told of CJD fear over pregnancy jab

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

THE GOVERNMENT last night urged mothers not to abandon injections which may save up to 80 newborn babies each year, after worries resurfaced that Britain's blood supply is contaminated with the human form of mad cow disease.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, admitted to the Commons that there was a "theoretical" risk from the Anti-D immunoglobulin injection, given to about 80,000 pregnant women in Britain each year to prevent their babies developing a potentially fatal form of BSE.

The Anti-D supplies now in use come from British donors, and so could theoretically be contaminated with the "prion" that causes the fatal "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nv-CJD), the human form of BSE.

Four of the 31 people who have so far died of nv-CJD were blood donors, and studies suggest that the prions can be carried by white blood cells. There is no test to detect prions in blood, and symptoms may not appear for decades after infection.

However, Mr Dobson said there was a worldwide shortage of Anti-D immunoglobulin, and

Eggs of girl, 5, may be frozen

THE MOTHER of a five-year-old girl who suffers from advanced growth wants her daughter's eggs frozen – and could let her become pregnant before she is a teenager.

Chelsea Casey from Bury, Greater Manchester, has an undiagnosed disorder which means she was two feet long at birth and is now five feet tall and wearing the clothes of a 10-year-old. Her mother, Ann, faces the trauma of trying to secure her daughter a normal life before the possible onset of the menopause, which could be at the age of 10.

Her mother is considering having Chelsea's eggs frozen so she could have a surrogate child later in life or she would allow her to have a baby at the age of 11 or 12 if the menopause is delayed. "I just want her to have a normal life and the chance of having a family. I have to think of these things."

She said it was possible that Chelsea could be like an old woman by the time she was in her 20s. Any baby would be fathered by a sperm donor.

Chelsea has mild learning difficulties and her speech is limited. Her condition, which has baffled medical experts, is inherited from her father; Dave,

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Home Office

THE NEXT HOME IMPROVEMENT

Dubliners call time on English stag parties

"DADDY, why are those men wearing girls' knickers on their heads?" a baffled toddler asked one Saturday afternoon. "Because they're English," came the weary reply.

Stag parties, Britain's least welcome ambassadors to Ireland, have not impressed residents and businesses in the city's fashionable Temple Bar area. Now even its bars are calling "Time gentlemen please" and have banned such events.

The ban follows estimates that the stag invasion costs the city centre almost £60m a year in lost trade. Although the partygoers bring in revenue for hotels and pubs, business people reckon they are showing a net loss.

Stag and hen events attract around 1 per cent of the Irish capital's visitors, but deter another 13 per cent, according to a report commissioned by property-owners in Temple Bar, the most popular venue for the pre-nuptial parties.

Local people have endured the motley crews for years as they lurched around the streets, sang raucously in bars,

BY ALAN MURDOCH
in Dublin

or tied one another to lamp-posts wrapped in tin foil and even more exotic attire. But now no more.

The English stag parties took off after the first IRA ceasefire in 1994. Some weeks end up to 25 rowdy stag and hen parties, each up to 30-strong, take over the area, driving locals to seek more civilised sanctuary.

Hotel sources spoke of other European tourists fleeing the area in horror.

Martin Keane, of the Oliver St John Gogarty bar, said: "It's not nice for children to see; it's not nice for the residents. Publicans in Temple Bar are concerned about the long-term picture. We want to ensure the area will remain attractive to both our local regulars and visitors to the area."

The pubs' move was welcomed by Dublin police.

Assistant Chief Commissioner James McHugh said: "The report correctly identifies the problems associated with these parties in the city of Dublin. For their part, the police will not be found wanting on the enforcement side."

Jim Ruane, president of Dublin's Chamber of Commerce, said: "This is not the type of business and behaviour the city needs."

A group of girls enjoying a hen party in Dublin's Parliament Street, but not all parties are welcome in the city

Moya Nolan



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JH/MN/150

Black detective settles bias case

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Friction between Det Insp Michael, 44, and some colleagues reached a head when he agreed to share a platform with prominent black American lawyers at a conference called Race for Justice, held in London in 1995.

Sitting alongside Johnnie Cochran, the lawyer who represented OJ Simpson, Det Insp Michael raised the possibility that British police forces had their own versions of Mark Fuhrman, the racist officer who investigated the Simpson case.

The comments were mis-

represented in newspapers as a slur on all white officers and provoked a wave of hostility particularly from the Police Federation. Det Insp Michael became even more ostracised. He says he was known as "a civil rights spy in the camp" and "a troublemaker". After nearly three years of tension, the pressure became too much. "In the end, I did have to go off work for a year for stress," he said. "During that time I was off on long-term sick it was an extreme test of the human spirit."

In an interview with *The Independent*, Det Insp Michael said: "There has been an amicable settlement to the case and it is to my satisfaction. I am heartened that the commissioner has a full appreciation of the issues and I'm now optimistic that the rest of my time in the service will be productive and rewarding."

Det Insp Michael's willingness to speak out about racism within the ranks made him an object of suspicion in some police quarters, which dismissed the BPA as "unnecessary and divisive" when it was founded in 1994. Some colleagues - who even suggested that BPA members were working in league with opponents of the police - made his life extremely difficult.

"As chairman of the BPA, I was very outspoken about racism in the Metropolitan Police and at the same time I had an outstanding industrial tribunal action which was race-related," he said. "As I carried on my normal day-to-day police duties, investigating murders and rapes and managing CID teams, my life became very uncomfortable on a daily basis."

He has claimed he was routinely victimised because of his colour and made the target of insidious comments designed subtly to undermine his position.

rights spy in the camp" and "a troublemaker". After nearly three years of tension, the pressure became too much. "In the end, I did have to go off work for a year for stress," he said. "During that time I was off on long-term sick it was an extreme test of the human spirit."

Last June, he returned to work with the Organised Crime Group at New Scotland Yard.

The Met had always promised to defend itself vigorously against Det Insp Michael's claims of discrimination but there was a noticeable softening in attitude as the November tribunal date loomed closer, he said.

Det Insp Michael, who was born on the Caribbean island of Dominica and came to Britain aged 10, credits the Lawrence inquiry for enlightening senior colleagues to problems which he has long railed against.

He said: "I have noticed that it has helped certain senior officers to reach a real understanding of some of the issues that I was talking about..."

"Quite obviously we are in a period of change and we can look forward with optimism."



Det Insp David Michael: "We are in a period of change"

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Lindsay accuses critics of vile plot

HELL HATH no fury like an actor in receipt of a bad review. In the case of Robert Lindsay the fury is accompanied by pain, paranoia, outrage and soul-baring. But then he did receive a stinker.

Lindsay, who is playing Richard the Third for the Royal Shakespeare Company production of the same name, based his increasingly tortured soul to a small gathering at Stratford-upon-Avon for a question and answer session about his career.

He used it as an opportunity to lash out at the critics, accusing them of colluding with each other in writing their reviews. He deplored the "maulings" given to Alan Rickman and Helen Mirren after their performances in the National Theatre's *Antony And Cleopatra*. He claimed such critical maulings might stop star actors doing long seasons for low pay.

Displaying a paranoia unusual even in actors, he said that his first-night audience was watching the critics rather than the stage – an experience which, if true, would have been numbingly boring.

He told theatregoers at the question and answer session this week: "These critics have an agenda. You see them on first nights and they do collude and swap, and that's what I want to see stopped. It has got to stop. There must be a press week where they come over a week, and not en masse and affect the audience as they did that night. I saw people watching the critics, because I spend most of my time talking to the audience, and no one was looking at me... what is the point?"

Lindsay, a star of TV's *Globe and Citizen Smith* as well as an acclaimed stage actor, used the question and answer session to assure theatregoers he had not meant what he said in a radio interview when he accused audiences of being spoilt.

But in clearing up one controversy he strode headlong

into another. The radio interview, he said, "was the following day after the opening night, which was an extremely emotional night for all of us. I was tired and I was a bit stressed and I had read the worst review I have ever read in my life, which was aimed at me, and I was a little bit volatile that morning, but I think a lot of

things have been taken out of proportion." The review he was referring to was by Michael Billington, *The Guardian's* critic, who wrote that Lindsay "exchanges nods, becks, and wreathed smiles with the front rows as if he were Ken Dodd playing the Palladium. Indeed, I had read the worst review I have ever read in my life, which was aimed at me, and I was a little bit volatile that morning, but I think a lot of

though Lindsay also received some good reviews and audience appreciation for the production, which transfers to the Savoy Theatre, London, in January, he gave an eloquent insight into the pain felt by an actor on reading a veritable stink of the critics: "I can't tell you how much they hurt, and particularly when

they're wrong. I'm just trying to say that I think it's going to get harder and harder if people don't start treating actors in this country with respect a little bit more. People won't come up and do these seasons in repertoire because the attractions are not huge." He went on: "I think actors are far more reluctant, and particularly when

people like Alan and Helen receive such mauulings in the press... I have to say."

"Some of it was so personal it made me really angry. They put their careers on the line, they do. They don't need to do that, we don't need to do it. We do it because we love it."

Leading Article, Review, page 3

The actor Robert Lindsay in the role of Richard the Third, which some critics panned, leading him to criticise them

Geraint Lewis

Futuristic V&A plan likely to be rejected

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

A CONTROVERSIAL design for an extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum, which has been described variously as a potential "icon like the Eiffel Tower" and a "spiral of crumpled boxes", appears doomed, as the project is likely to be refused planning permission.

The museum wants to sandwich a futuristic building, The Spiral, between its Victorian galleries in Kensington, but the council's planning officials recommended yesterday that permission be refused at next Monday's committee meeting. They claim the building, designed by the avant-garde architect Daniel Libeskind, is too large for the site.

The extension is part of a £75m project to provide extra gallery space at the museum, but it has attracted support and

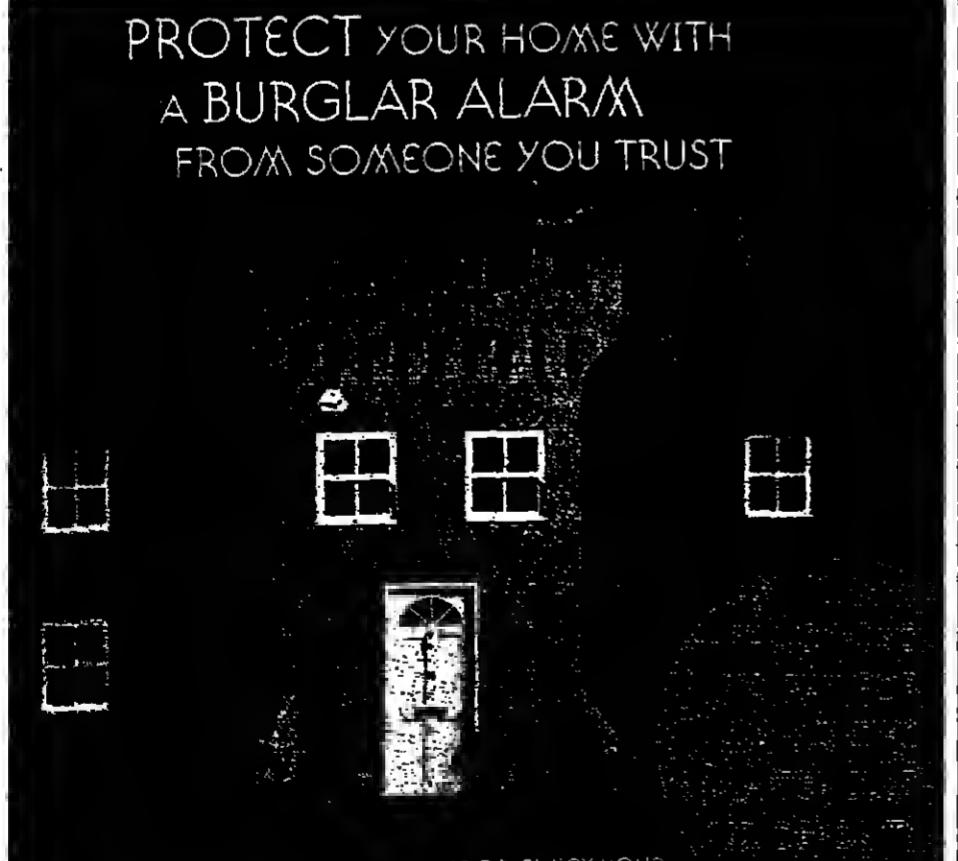
Gwyn Miles, head of major projects at the V&A, said she was very disappointed with the council's recommendation, but was confident that the museum would win any appeal. "This is a building that the V&A needs for its contemporary art, craft and design. But it will also be a centre for London and the country," she said.

The seven-storey building was designed to sit between the museum's Henry Cole Wing and the Aston Webb site in south Kensington. The architect has described it as a "geometric spiral", faced with tiles which, higher up, would give way to glass panels. Lifts would make the building's exterior and it would house galleries and an education centre.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, said: "It will be a tragedy and a wasted opportunity if it is turned down. A building can change the whole perception of a town. The Sydney Opera House changed Australia and this building is as important."

A spokesman for Kensington and Chelsea Council said it had received 22 letters of objection and 20 of support.

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An awful lot of beef over bananas, Bills, and pork barrels

A FEW DAYS ago, the House of Commons was assured that the armed forces were doing their bit to chew Britain out of the beef crisis. At barracks throughout the land, members were told, British beef was on the menu and steady progress was being made ethically to cleanse the outsourcing of pork products.

Yesterday, the Opposition asked the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, to enlist the sick and the old in this masticatory campaign to save the nation's bacon. Would hospitals also be required to adjust their tenders to help the British pig industry out of its current dismal swill? As a consumer of pig meat

himself, Mr Brown replied, he would advise all consumers to look up a flag before handing over their cash.

They were talking about diet in the House of Lords too, relatively innocuously at first, with a brief exchange of views about the Caribbean banana industry, currently the subject of a charitable intervention by the European Union and a very uncharitable retaliation from the United States, which has its own banana republics to defend. This was very shortsighted, suggested Baroness Williams, since the only agricultural alternative to this innocuous fruit were cash crops

that the United States government likes a great deal less: "Yes, we have no bananas" they would soon be singing to a calypso fit, "there's only cocaine today."

The more serious dietary question, though, related to the Government's proposals to ram Millbank-approved candidates down the throats of local constituents, by means of the feeding funnel known as the closed list system. The Lords were debating, for the fourth time, an amendment to the European Elections Bill which would replace this unpopular device with an open list alternative. There was a certain rich

irony in the spectacle of an entirely unelected chamber, many of whose members owe their presence

to accident of birth alone, taking the moral high ground in a question of electoral procedure. Indeed this paradox forms a large plank of the Government's argument in defence of its proposals. The only plank, in truth, since all the others are too rotten to display in public.

It is a mark of their embarrassment over this issue that Lord Mackay was able to make his opening speech supporting the motion, citing only Labour MPs and MEPs and an article from *The Mirror*. The closed list was a threat to the genuine independence of MPs, he suggested, who would find themselves beholden not to local constituents

but to senior party managers, who could then use their powers to bully the recalcitrant into silence. As if to illustrate his argument, Baroness Jay then tried to rule against Lord Shore, when he found himself rising from his seat at the same time as another Labour peer. But on this occasion, at least, the independent spirit prevailed, assisted by an indignant hubbub from Tory peers. This was a simple matter, Lord Shore explained, of "the electorate versus the selectorate". He would keep faith with the former.

Even those who supported the Government couldn't muster a moral argument between them -

the first two speeches to urge peers to reject the amendment were at pains to point out that they thought the closed list system was quite wrong, and that only their belief in the supremacy of the elected chamber had overcome their misgivings. "How many times can we ask them to think again?" said Lord Barnett, morosely. His question was answered quite quickly, at least one more time, though that won't alter the end result.

Whips will crack in the Commons and as Lord Russell had warned earlier, the party managers will get their pork barrels. At least he can take comfort in the fact that it will be British pork that fills them.

Peers defiant over Europe candidates

THE HOUSE of Lords was on a constitutional collision course with the Government yesterday when peers voted for the third time to extend voter choice in next year's Euro elections.

A cross-party alliance of peers defeated the Government by 237 to 194, a majority of 43, raising the prospect that it might lose the European Parliamentary Elections Bill.

Ministers are insisting on a "closed-list" system of proportional representation under which voters back parties rather than candidates, but the Lords have argued that concentrating power in the hands of the centralised party machine would be undemocratic.

The Government must now find a compromise before next Thursday's prorogation to persuade peers to end their "parliamentary ping-pong" before the session ends and the Bill is lost. It has already offered to review the system after next year's poll.

The Commons has twice reversed Lords rulings on the issue, despite strong reservations among some senior

CONSTITUTION

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Labour backbenchers about

party control over closed lists.

Earlier this week, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, accused

Tory hereditary peers of opposing the "elected will" of the Commons, indicating that it would strengthen the Government's determination to scrap their voting rights.

Summing up after a heated debate, Home Office Minister State Lord Williams of Mostyn insisted that the Government would stand fast on the issue. "We shall use every means at our disposal to ensure that the clearly expressed will of the elected House is carried through and put into effect."

He said the House had discharged its duty as a revising chamber, not once but twice, and should now back down. But Tory spokesman Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish said there was still time to ask the Government to think again and to find a compromise which would accommodate its critics.

Lord Mackay said the promise of a review did not satisfy the Lords' demand for the June poll to be held on an "open-list" system.

After the historic defeat, Tory leader William Hague rejected that hereditary peers were to blame for "wrecking the Bill". "If the Government fails, don't blame the House of Lords. It is time to stop an undemocratic decision that denies the voter a choice of candidate."

Former leader of the Lords, Lord Richard, warned peers that they were threatening the constitutional relationship with the Commons.

During the debate, Labour peer Lord Shore of Stepney dismissed suggestions that this was a clash between the Commons and the Lords. "It is not democracy versus autocracy. It is about open lists against closed lists," he said.

Earl Russell, a Liberal Democrat peer, rejected Government claims that it would lose the Bill because of lack of the tight legislative schedule, saying there was still enough time for a compromise.

The actor Simon Callow (right) joins the cast of the Royal Opera House singing 'The Slave Chorus' from *Nabucco* as they presented a 15,000-signature petition to Downing Street asking for more government subsidies to stop a temporary closure next year. *Mark Chivers*

Corrupt MPs 'should be stripped of immunity'

CORRUPT MPs should be stripped of their immunity from facing criminal charges in the courts, a Westminster watchdog said yesterday.

Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, increased pressure on the Government to change the law concerning MPs who get involved in bribery or corruption. "It seems likely, bribery or corruption were made a criminal offence applying to members, I believe such cases should be tried in the courts," he said.

MPs cannot be charged with criminal offences of bribery or corruption because in the past the House of Commons has taken the view that it should discipline members itself. It is also difficult to try MPs because

censure a member, require an apology, impose a suspension or even expel him in severe cases without redress. MPs who have been disciplined could take the Government to the European Court of Human Rights under the new Human Rights Act.

Sir Gordon added that an independent, non-political panel should be set up to deal with appeals from the internal parliamentary discipline procedures.

Last year Ann Widdecombe, now Conservative health spokesman, resigned from the Standards and Privileges Committee because she felt the former Tatten MP Neil Hamilton had been unfairly treated.

Sir Gordon found that Mr Hamilton had taken cash from Mohamed Al Fayed in return

for lobbying services - a charge which Mr Hamilton strongly denied. He was not able to appeal against the decision. Yesterday Miss Widdecombe welcomed Sir Gordon's call for change.

"I think it is iniquitous that there is no right of appeal to an independent body at the moment, and Neil Hamilton was caught in that trap. I know of no other court in the land where you don't have an appeal," she said. She also welcomed the move to introduce a new criminal offence.

However, Sir Gordon's report said the case against Mr Hamilton had been proved.

"The findings were supported by evidence," he wrote. "Without additional evidence there were no grounds for a further appeal."

Speaker attacked over threat to Iraq

THE SPEAKER, Betty Boothroyd, was criticised by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for refusing to allow an emergency Commons statement on Iraq before the threat of British and US forces going into action.

The veteran Labour backbencher, who recently returned from Baghdad, protested that the Speaker had allowed an emergency statement to be made on scare stories about CJD but she had turned down his request for minister to make a statement on possible attacks on Iraq.

Mr Dalyell's colleague, Tony Benn, accused the Government of by passing the supremacy of Parliament by endorsing, in Cabinet, the use of force against Baghdad without referring it to the Commons.

Mr Benn also led protests by furious Labour backbenchers over talks with the Liberal Democrats on wider cooperation, and accused the Prime Minister of "side-lining" Parliament.

Mrs Beckett replied: "The fact is, it is sensible and mature politics to take forward ideas with those where there is common ground [but] there are very many issues where we do, indeed, disagree."

THE HOUSE

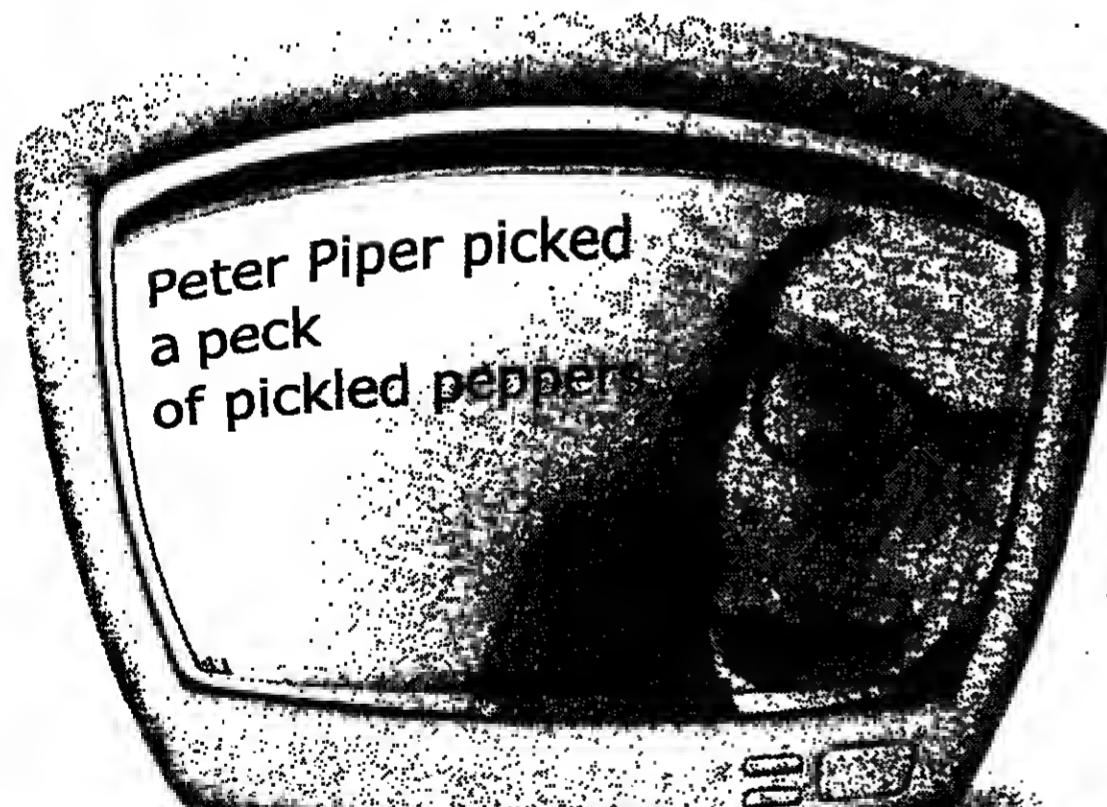


Food safety

THERE HAS not been any "backdoor pressure" from the food industry to shelve plans for an independent Food Standards Agency, the deputy Agriculture minister, Jeff Rooker, insisted.

Today
Lords: Civil Procedure (Modification of Enactments) Order; Legal Advice and Assistance (Scope) (Amendment) Regulations; Education (Grammar School Ballot); Regulations; Social Security (New Deal Pilot); Regulations; Contracting Out (Functions in Relation to Insurance) Order; Meat and Livestock Commission Levy (Variation) Scheme (Confirmation) Order.

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John Minns

barrels

Grammar school ballots 'are unfair'

PARENTS FROM the poorest and smallest schools will be disenfranchised in ballots on the future of grammar schools, according to new evidence.

Local authorities argue that new rules giving parents a vote on the 165 remaining grammar schools to be debated in the House of Lords today are unfair and undemocratic.

Anti-selection campaigners say the rules are "either a cock-up or a conspiracy to en-

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

sure grammar schools continue". Ministers say they are the only way to resolve a highly contentious issue.

In areas where there are just one or two grammar schools and the majority of children go to comprehensives, only parents at schools that have sent at least five children there over the past three years will receive

votes. All parents in places where there is a network of grammar schools will have votes.

A survey carried out for Calderdale council reveals that parents at 26 of the 83 schools would have no vote, including half Halifax's Asian primary school parents and two-thirds of those from schools that serve the former failing school.

"This is not about education, it is about democracy and a drift to a new fascism," he said. "I am a Labour Party member but

two private schools and two schools outside the area would have a say. David Hellwell, a businessman and former Labour councillor who carried out the survey, examined how many children had been admitted to the two grammar schools from each primary school in the past three years.

He pointed out that as many as one-fifth of children at the disqualified schools were taking the entrance test for the grammar schools though few were successful. In its sub-

mission to the Government, Cumbria County Council argues that parents in the smallest primary schools will be disenfranchised because they have only two or three pupils in each year group. "This is illogical," it says.

David Williams, the council's deputy director of education, said: "The grammar school in Penrith has the largest catchment area in England. Five or six of the 20 primary schools it

serves have only 20 or 30 pupils. They are clearly feeder schools but it is quite possible their parents won't have a vote."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said there was no question of the rules being designed to help either supporters or opponents of grammar schools.

"There are strong views on both sides," she said. "We had to reach a conclusion which we felt was the most workable,

consistent and fair. We are trying to give parents choices where this is at all possible."

Baroness Blatch, the Conservatives' education spokeswoman in the Lords, said she feared that all grammar schools were in danger.

"There is absolutely no logic in the voting arrangements," she said. "Parents of children in grammar schools should have a vote as well as those in feeder schools."



Fish-eating dinosaur discovered

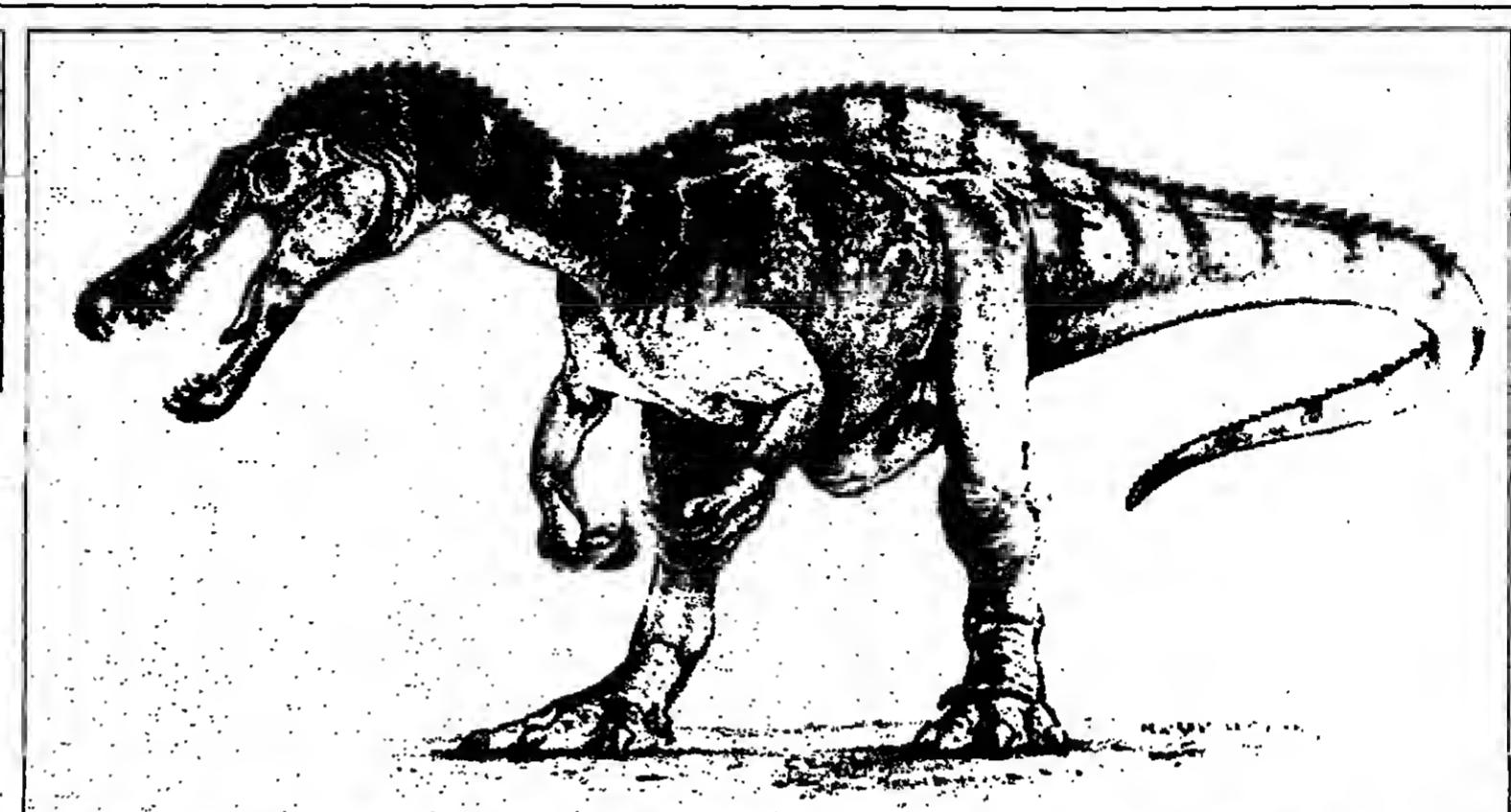
SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered a species of dinosaur that was armed with a pair of thumb claws the size and shape of giant meathooks. It was one of the largest carnivores to stalk the land.

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

row jaws studded with cone-shaped teeth and a sail-like fin running down their backs.

Suchomimus tenerensis, named after its crocodile-like skull and the place where it was found, stood on its hind legs and was about 30ft long. An average-sized man would have stood at the level of the dinosaur's thigh.

An almost complete skeleton of the fish-eating dinosaur has been found in fossil beds of the Tenere Desert in central Niger. The fossil shows the living animal must have rivalled the largest carnivore, *Tyrannosaurus rex*, in size and ferocity. The new species is identified as a member of a group of piscivores, the spinosauroids, which had long, nar-



The dinosaur skeleton, armed with thumb claws (above), which was unearthed in Niger (top left). George Steinmetz/National Geographic Society

and grasp its prey rather than slice it – just as a crocodile's teeth are for holding rather than chewing and killing.

Oliver Rauhut, a postgraduate student from the University of Bristol who was part of the research team, said: "We don't really know how it lived, but the suggestion is that it ate fish, which is very possible."

"The largest claw we found measured 14in along the outer

curve. They look like very nice weapons, and the forelimbs are very strong. They're just too powerful for fishing. It's possible they were used for hunting slightly larger prey or slicing up carcasses."

The team leader, Paul Sereno, a palaeontologist at the University of Chicago, who describes the dinosaur in this week's *Science* journal, said the discovery is one of the most significant in the work leading to understanding how dinosaurs spread around the world.

The dinosaur was found in a region that was covered by swampy forests in the Cretaceous period, about 120 million years ago, when Africa and South America were merged in a single continent, Gondwanaland, separated from a giant northern continent, Laurasia, by the ancient Tethyan seaway.

"We had been looking for really excellent fossils, not just of dinosaurs but of other organisms as well. This finding will add significant information to the idea that there was traffic across the Tethys seaway during the Cretaceous period. We are trying to understand evolution in a fragmenting world," Professor Sereno said.

Spinosauroids are members of the same two-legged family of dinosaurs, the theropods, that included *Velociraptor* and *T rex*. One of its closest relatives was *Baryonyx*, a fish-eating dinosaur living in the region that is now northern Europe.

Suchomimus appears to be more closely related to *Baryonyx* than to its southern spinosauroids found in Egypt and Brazil, suggesting there may have been mass movement of dinosaurs from the north to the south.

The case continues.

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NOW SHOW

Climate conference: Scientists tell how high sea temperatures are literally cooking life in delicate eco-systems

World's coral reefs dying in the heat

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent
in Buenos Aires

VAST SWATHES of the world's coral reefs, vital for fishing and tourism, have been killed by the unprecedented high temperatures of 1998, the hottest year on record, it was revealed yesterday.

In the Indian Ocean, the western Pacific around the Philippines and Indonesia, and the eastern Pacific around the Galapagos Islands, most of the corals have died, leading coral reef scientists announced.

All areas of the world except the central Pacific had been affected, they said, and in many places more than 90 per cent of the corals had been killed, by sea temperatures up to 2.4°C hotter than normal. The Caribbean is being affected at the moment.

"Reefs are living at the edge of being cooked," said Don McAllister, a Canadian coral scientist with the World Conservation Union, the international umbrella body for wildlife.

"In almost every region of the world, 1998 got too hot for corals to live normally," said Dr Thomas Goreau, an American scientist who heads the main international network reporting on coral reef conditions.

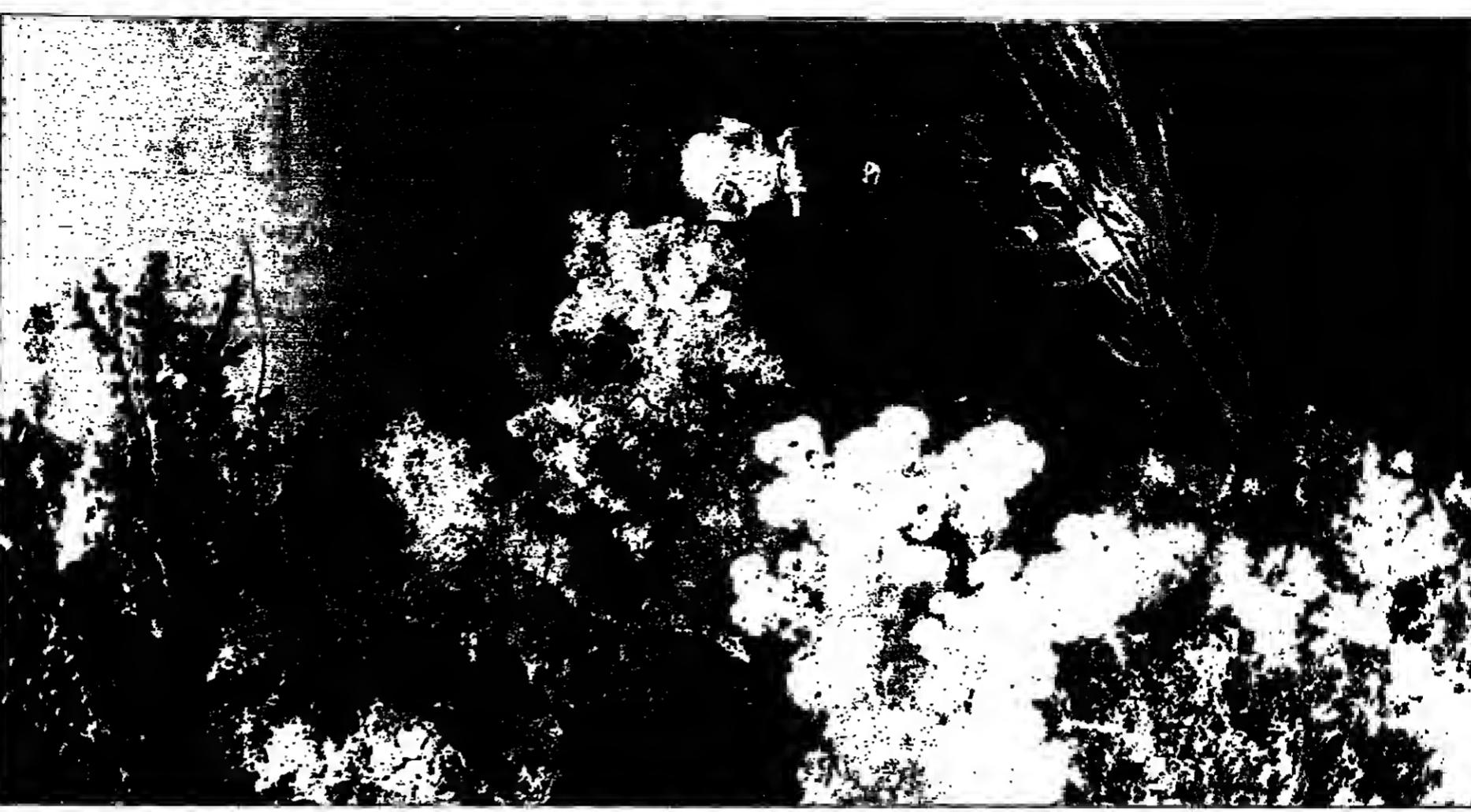
"All previous human-induced coral reef destruction pales beside what temperature has done this year."

It was an unprecedented natural disaster, he said. "This year temperature has killed more corals than anything has ever done. The world's reefs will only be saved if global warming is stopped cold now. Not in 10 years, but now."

If it happens, the disappearance of coral reefs will be the first catastrophic global impact of climate change.

Coral reefs form the world's richest ecosystem. They also underpin tourism in more than 100 countries, thought to be worth \$500bn (£300bn) a year, providing their wildlife, coastal protection and all the soft white sand of tropical beaches.

The death of unprecedented quantities of coral was announced at the world conservation union in Buenos Aires, where ministers from 180 countries, including Britain, are



A scuba diver swimming among the soft coral 'Dendronephthya'; coral reefs form the Earth's richest ecosystems, but many are dying Gary Bell/Planet Earth Pictures

trying to take forward last year's Kyoto Treaty on climate change.

The corals have been killed by bleaching - a process in which they turn white when high temperatures drive out the

microscopic algae that provide food for the coral animals, and give them their colour.

Corals can survive only short periods of bleaching and in many areas of the world it had proved fatal, Dr Goreau

said. New analyses of satellite measurements of sea-surface temperatures had shown that corals begin to die if temperatures rise just one degree Celsius above normal for two months, or two degrees for

one month, and this had been exceeded in huge areas of the world this year.

The Indian Ocean was the worst hit, with most of its corals dying.

"We have lost reefs before,

but never a whole ocean," Dr McAllister said.

The Red Sea and the Gulf had suffered badly, as had all of South-east Asia from Vietnam down through the Philippines to Indonesia, although Aus-

tralia's Great Barrier Reef had escaped the worst effects.

Northern hemisphere coral reefs such as those in the Caribbean are being affected at the moment. "Coral reefs are the most sensitive ecosystem of all to temperature increase. They are like the canary in the mine," Dr Goreau said.

"They are the first ecosystem that will go and right now they can't take any - any - more warming."

This year is already certain to be the hottest in the official 150-year global temperature record. But British scientists, who, as revealed in *The Independent* two weeks ago, have reconstructed the temperature peaks of the last millennium, believe it will be the hottest for 1,000 years.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

A WORLD OF RICHES FROM CORALS UNDER THE SEA

■ Corals grow in the Indian Ocean, the western Pacific around the Philippines and Indonesia and the eastern Pacific around the Galapagos Islands

■ They form the sea's richest ecosystem, holding 25 per cent of the world's marine fish species in less than 0.3 per cent of the ocean's area. They are

thought to provide more than 10 per cent of the world's annual fish catch of 89 million tonnes.

■ From 0.3 per cent of the ocean's surface they officially provide six million tonnes of the world's annual 89-million-tonne fish catch, and the true total could be over 10 million tonnes.

■ Corals are 80 times richer in fish than the rest of the sea and the total number of known species of fish, animals, plants and micro organisms they contain is 93,000. There may be a million species unknown to science.

■ The reefs give employment to between nine and ten million small-

scale fishermen, but are also important for the tourist industry of more than 100 countries, estimated to be worth \$500bn.

■ The main causes of death are sewage dumped in the sea, sediment caused by deforestation, or overheating. Corals "bleach" under heat stress - they

turn white as the microscopic algae that provide their food and pink colouring are expelled. They are alive but starving. If the bleaching continues for any length of time, they die.

■ In many places, 90 per cent of corals have been killed by temperatures of up to 2.4°C hotter than usual.

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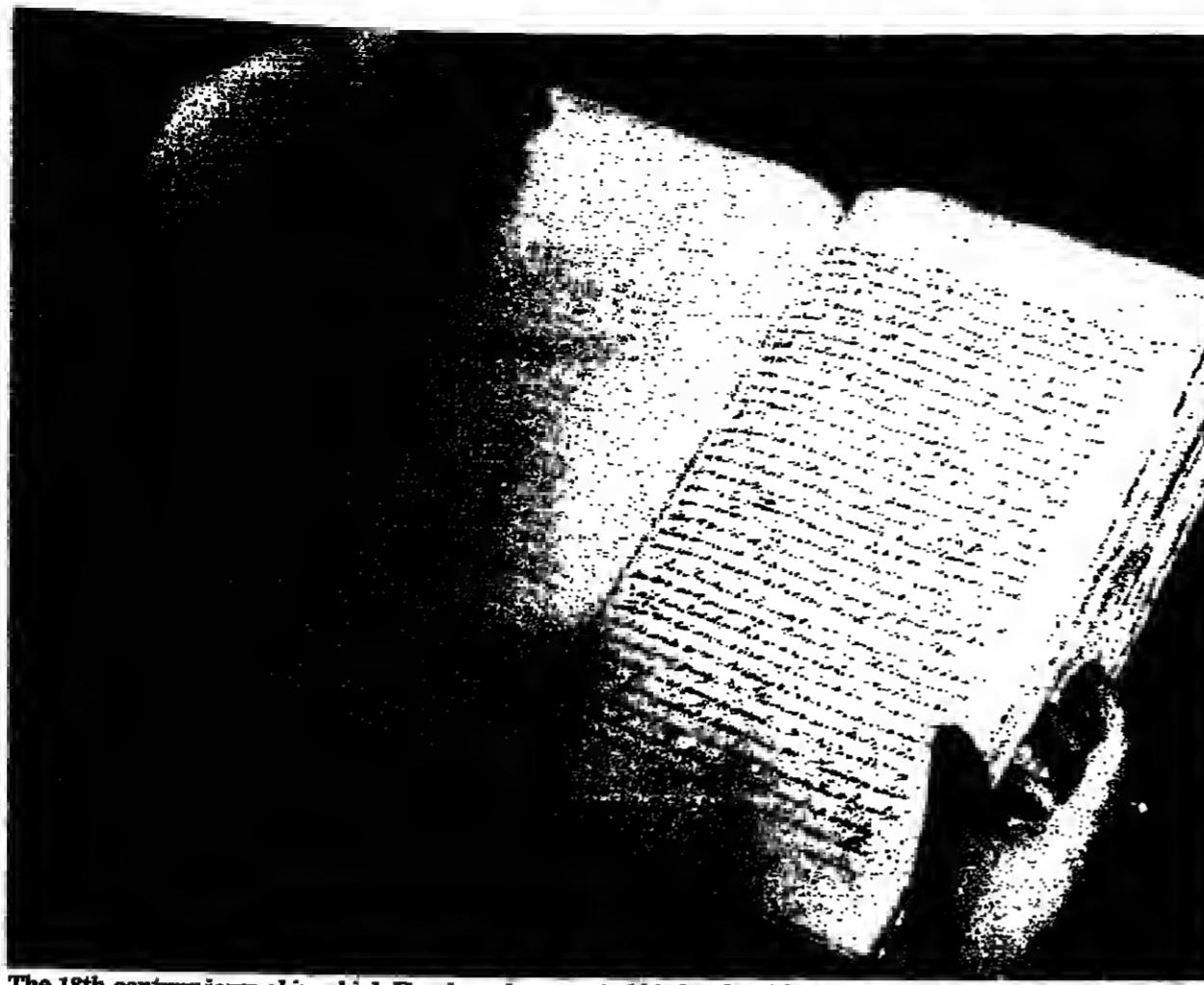
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The 18th-century journal in which Harrison documented his battle with the Board of Longitude Neville Elder

For sale: Life and times of 'Longitude' clockmaker

EVER SINCE Dava Sobel wrote her best-selling novel *Longitude*, readers have been fascinated by the struggles of the Yorkshire horologist John Harrison to convince the Board of Longitude he had solved the greatest scientific problem of his age.

His efforts to develop a clock that would keep precise time at sea, something no clock had ever been able to do on land, are well documented from the minutes of meetings between Harrison and the board. But the clockmaker's own account of what happened has never been heard. Now his diary is to be auctioned by Sotheby's on 17 December and is expected to fetch upwards of £150,000.

Peter Beal, of Sotheby's, said the diary unquestionably belonged to Harrison: "This is his story in his own words, which has never been published before. It's a formal record of how he deserved the prize and of everything he went through."

The quest for a solution to the problems of longitude occupied scientists for almost two centuries. Lacking the ability to measure longitude meant that sailors were literally lost at sea as soon as they lost sight of land. In 1714, Parliament offered £20,000 to anyone who could solve the problem and the race, which attracted scientists across Europe, was on.

Harrison invented a clock that would keep the precise time at sea so that sailors could compare the time in Greenwich with the position of the midday sun and thus plot their position.

But his efforts to claim the prize were frustrated at every turn and he made several enemies on the board. The journal, penned by Harrison's lawyer, Walter Williams, and annotated

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

by his son William, (Harrison could not write) tells of the often acrimonious meetings.

After one such meeting, the diary recorded: "The Doctor [James Bradley, Astronomer Royal] seemed very much out of temper and in the greatest passion told Mr Harrison that if it had not been for him and his plaguey Watch Mr [Fibias] Mayer and he should have

been able to claim his prize. But the board continued to question him. He stormed out of one meeting declaring 'so long as he had a drop of English blood in his body he would not comply with their Resolutions without they would explain them'.

Harrison was eventually granted the prizemoney in instalments but was never acknowledged as the winner. His diary remained in the family until 1900. It surfaced nearly 70 years later and has since been in private ownership.

John Harrison: Denied proper recognition

shared the Ten thousand pounds before now..."

After one trial of his final timepiece, H4, which lost less than two minutes in five months at sea, Harrison should have been able to claim his prize. But the board continued to question him. He stormed out of one meeting declaring "so long as he had a drop of English blood in his body he would not comply with their Resolutions without they would explain them".

Harrison was eventually granted the prizemoney in instalments but was never acknowledged as the winner. His diary remained in the family until 1900. It surfaced nearly 70 years later and has since been in private ownership.

THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

The Independent is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.

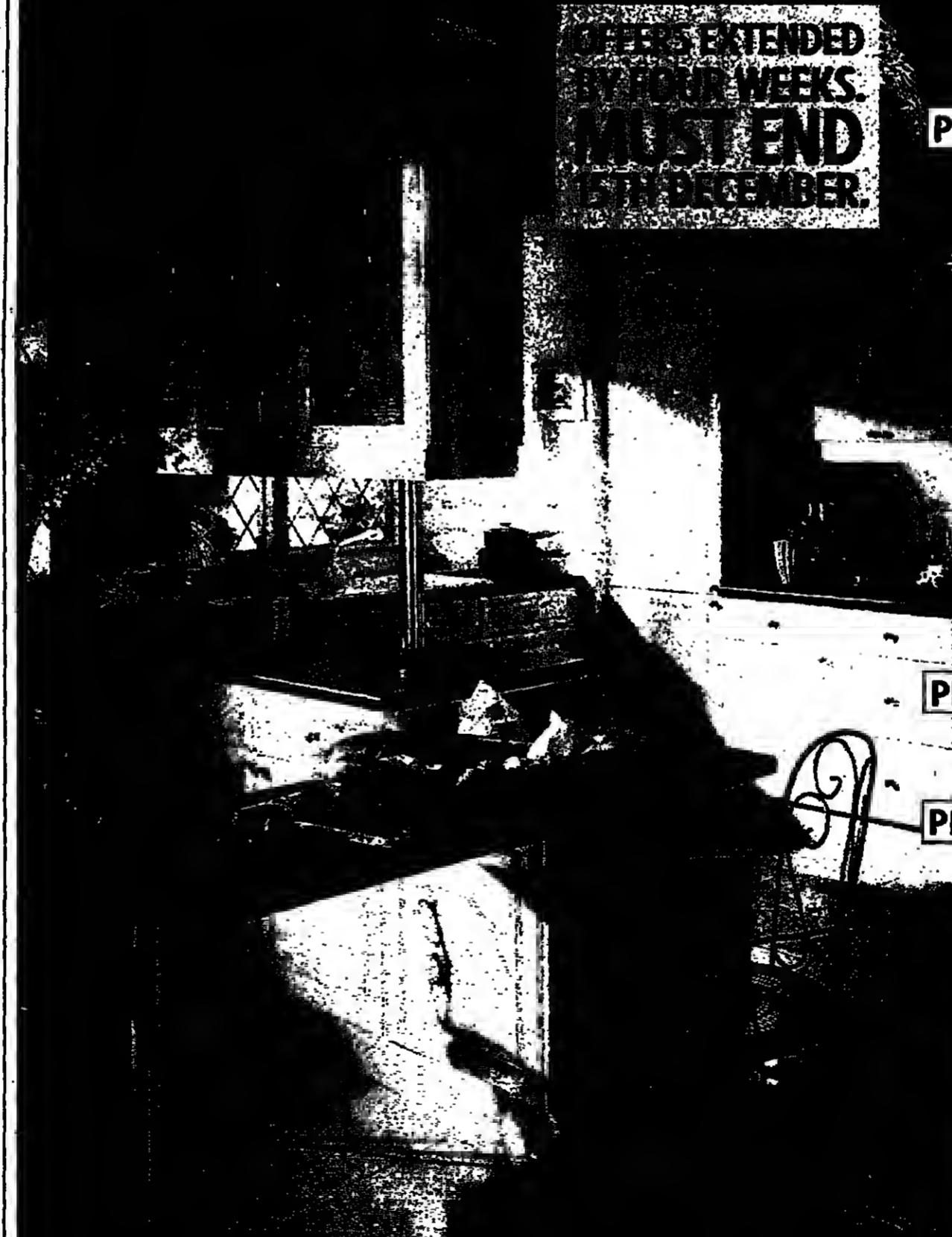


Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

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SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWARD BYRNE

A REGISTERED CHARITY



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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UN chief sidelined in new stand-off with Iraq

BY DAVID USBORNE

In New York

KOFT ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, cut short his trip to northern Africa yesterday and boarded a plane. It was crisis time again, with the United States and Britain once more on the brink of blitzing Iraq with missiles and bombs. But Mr Annan was not bound for Baghdad. He went home.

He literally went home, to his apartment in the upmarket Sutton Place neighbourhood of Manhattan, not to UN headquarters. Because this time, the Secretary-General is firmly on the sidelines. How different to February, when he dashed to Baghdad for the chat with President Saddam Hussein that bought the world a reprieve.

There is a tedium to this cycle of stand-offs with Saddam. But since February, the picture has changed. The way it looked last night, any notion of the world's diplomat-in-chief returning to the banks of the Tigris looked unlikely. The diplomatic door for the US strike is wide open – if it wants to. It is not clear whether the weapons inspections conducted by the UN inspectors, Unscion, will ever resume, or if Washington even wants them to.

The pivotal moment came on 31 October, the day that Saddam announced he was suspending all further co-operation with Unscion, whose work had been at a virtual standstill for weeks anyway. This had a crucial effect: it annoyed even the friends of Baghdad. For the first time probably in years, a degree of unity was established in the UN Security Council. Even Russia

conceded that Saddam had gone too far.

The depth of that unity should not be overstated. If the bombs fly, watch for Russia, China and even France to pronounce their dismay. But right now, nobody in the council is standing up for Saddam. That removes a huge obstacle for the US and Britain as they ponder strikes.

How, since last February, have we arrived at this point? A case can be made – and is made by some US officials – that the fluctuations in policy towards Iraq in Washington were carefully calculated to arrive at this point. This is the argument that Clinton has been working a “rope-a-dope” approach to Saddam. In other words, Washington allowed Unscion’s work to deteriorate. It bided its time, aware that there was no unity



Kofi Annan (left) whose talks earned Saddam a reprieve

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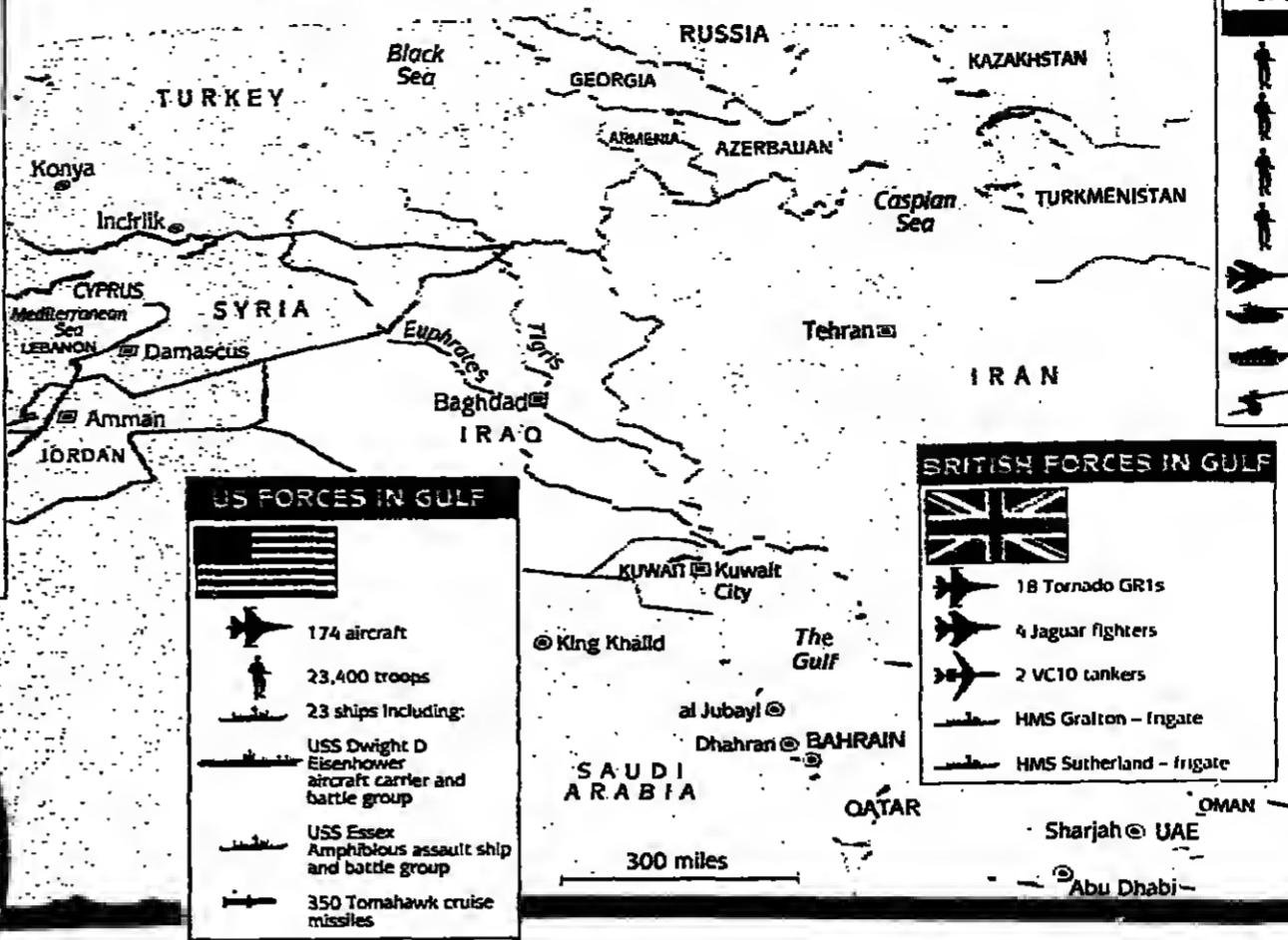


in the Security Council for firm action, until Saddam did what they knew he would do – overstep the mark.

In hindsight, there is sense in this interpretation. It is known – largely due to embarrassing revelations from the former weapons inspector Scott Ritter – that after the February deal, Washington discouraged Unscion from conducting surprise raids on Iraqi facilities. The US, in other words, covertly diluted Unscion’s clout to avoid a new confrontation.

The moment that Saddam began to hang himself came on

ALLIED ARMADA ASSEMBLES TO STRIKE IRAQ



5 August, when he first curtailed cooperation with Unscion without completely rupturing it. This prompted Mr Annan, who by then was perceived in Washington as being overly pro-Iraq, to propose a so-called “Comprehensive Review” of the sanctions and inspections regime. The idea was to give Baghdad fresh hope that sanctions could end, perhaps within six months, if it resumed its co-operation. Washington agreed and Mr Annan submitted his proposal in October.

The Security Council – or rather London and Washington – revised the Annan paper slightly. In a letter sent back to Mr Annan on 30 October, the council agreed to the review, but on condition that the burden of proof fell on Iraq, not on Unscion, to demonstrate it was indeed free of all weapons of mass destruction. The council also referred only very obliquely to Article 22 of the 1991 Resolution 687 that says that the oil embargo on Iraq will be lifted as soon as the weapons were indeed gone.

The letter, drafted by Britain, is what triggered Saddam’s decree on 31 October

that stymied Unscion entirely. Saddam had some reason for anger – the integrity of Article 22 is crucial for him. None the less, everyone was surprised. The Comprehensive Review, even as re-worded by the council, was meant, after all, as an encouragement to Iraq, a ray of hope after seven years of sanctions.

That has been the sequence of events. The “rope-a-dope” argument probably gives Washington too much credit. More likely it finds itself with this newly strengthened hand by accident. But one thing is for sure – February was then and November is now, and this time the bombs may very well get to Baghdad before Mr Annan.

Just before Mr Annan’s return to New York yesterday, the US stated baldly that there was no basis for him to go to Baghdad to try to resolve the crisis. Asked about the possibility of a rerun of the February trip, Peter Burleigh, the US representative at the UN, said: “On what basis at this point? I have heard of nothing of substance coming from Baghdad... What is needed now is a positive Iraqi response. That is how to defuse the situation.”

EVEN BY THE STANDARDS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IT IS CRUDE PRODUCTION.

“Capable of regenerating a CW [Chemical warfare] capability within months.” This is true, but a small Japanese religious sect was also able to produce sarin gas, which was dispersed in the Tokyo metro system. Unmentioned in the document is the fact that Iraq had a large arsenal of weapons of mass destruction during the Gulf War, which it did not use.

The paper is a curious mixture of understatement and exaggeration, whichever seems politically convenient. It states: “Chemical weapons casualties from the Iran-Iraq war number more than twenty thousand.” Indeed they do.

In fact 50,000 Iranians are still being treated for mustard gas poisoning.

The understatement may stem from the fact that Britain broadly supported Iraq in its war against Iran. The Iraqis were schooled in the use of poison gas against the Kurds by the RAF in the 1920s and its deployment was recommended by T E Lawrence.

The dossier says Iraq is capable of regenerating a CW [Chemical warfare] capability within months.” This is true, but a small Japanese religious sect was also able to produce sarin gas, which was dispersed in the Tokyo metro system. Unmentioned in the document is the fact that Iraq had a large arsenal of weapons of mass destruction during the Gulf War, which it did not use.

The document also glosses over the point that the real difficulty in gas warfare is delivering the weapon to the target in a lethal form. References to “3,000 tonnes of precursor chemicals” have little meaning. Every large army in the world has enough bullets to wipe out the world’s population, but the real point is delivery.

The paper says Saddam will rebuild his weapons of mass destruction unless he is stopped, but Unscion has been unable to find them and air strikes would bring us no nearer to destroying them. This could only be done by the military occupation of Iraq, which the government is not proposing.

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Jewish insults cause a storm

THE RUSSIAN capital has been wrapped up for days in a storm over anti-Semitic remarks made at a rally by General Albert Makashov, an extremist on the far left of the Communist Party. The failure of the party to condemn him with sufficient vigour prompted Boris Berezovsky, an influential politician and tycoon of Jewish origin, to demand that the Communists be outlawed.

The Siberian governor Alexander Lebed has now entered the fray - but in the guise of a senior statesman, rebuking Moscow politicians for making mountains out of molehills and urging them to concentrate on heating homes and feeding the population.

General Lebed, governor of the vast Krasnoyarsk region and a man with ambitions to occupy the Kremlin, said he took a negative view of General Makashov's outburst. However, the Communists, the largest party in the State Duma, should hardly be blamed for the behaviour of a single one of their members, he argued. And given the crisis in the country, politi-

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

cians should get down to the practical business of preparing for the long, hard winter ahead.

What Mr Lebed did not take account of, however, was the signal failure of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader to repudiate the remarks of General Makashov.

Possibly attempting to keep the lid on potential splits in his party, Mr Zyuganov responded instead by attacking the news media and Russia's wealthy tycoons.

On Tuesday, various public figures tried to play down the hardships facing Russia after Western intelligence sources said the country lacked grain and potatoes and could go hungry this winter.

However, General Lebed said the outcry over General Makashov was a "storm in a teacup". Only 50 million tonnes of grain had been harvested. There were heating problems in the Far East. Bread was also being wasted on the question of whether the body of Lenin

should be reburied. "He's been lying there in the mausoleum for years. He can lie there a bit longer," said General Lebed. "I repeat, there are very hard times ahead." As it to confirm his words, the temperature plunged in Moscow yesterday to minus 16C, a record degree of frost for November.

For intellectuals, for whom moral values are as important as bread, the Makashov affair has been disturbing. Leading artists, including Vladimir Vasiliev, the artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre, were quick to speak out against anti-Semitism.

However, it took a while for the government and the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, to make clear that they too regarded his racist diatribe as unacceptable.

As for Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the nationalist bad boy of Russian politics, he seemed not to care. His reaction was to appear on television wearing a powdered wig, playing the role of Mozart in a production by MPs on the composer.



An Orthodox Jew at a Moscow synagogue (left); Makashov (top) who made anti-Semitic remarks, and Lebed

Jeremy Nicholl/AFP/AP

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Switzerland defends its left-wing martyr

EUROPEAN TIMES
SAINT-CROIX

PERCHED ON the edge of the Jura hills with an Alpine backdrop, the small, peaceful town of Sainte-Croix is the epitome of a Swiss picture postcard. The townfolk, the Sainte-Croix, are better known for producing music boxes and harps than for setting the world on fire. But they have not forgotten one of their more militant grandsons: Alexei Vladimirov Jaccard-Siegrist, thrice tortured and probably executed by Chile's military regime.

His Christian names alone were enough to irk General Augusto Pinochet's right-wing supporters in 1972.

Born in Chile to a family of Swiss origin, the 20-year-old student had inherited his father's militant Communist beliefs. He was interrogated and tortured for a day, then thrown into prison and tortured again when President Salvador Allende was toppled a year later.

Alexei Jaccard disappeared in 1977, allegedly the victim of a deal between Argentina and Chile.

From beyond the grave, he doggedly continues to haunt General Pinochet.

Alexei Jaccard is merely a single name on the list in Spain that prompted Judge Baltasar Garzon to demand

the former dictator's extradition from Britain. He is one of 2,920 officially dead or missing during the 17 years of Chile's dictatorship. In all likelihood, the 82-year-old man in a London hospital

would not have been able to distinguish Mr Jaccard from any other long-haired young opponent. Equally, were he not Swiss by his father, Geneva's public prosecutor would not have added his extradition request.

The *Journal de Sainte-Croix*, circulation 2,500, pieced together the "local" boy's fate in a detailed investigation in 1993. Its editor, Jean-Claude Piguet, admits Mr Jaccard's story took up an unusual amount of space compared with other profiles on local émigrés. "It shook the local population," he says.

The Jaccards are one of Sainte-Croix's old bourgeois families. Transposed to Chile in the Seventies, they would have been closer to the wealthy establishment than General Pinochet's regime sought to nurture.

After he was released from prison in Chile, Alexei, the youngest Jaccard, fled to Argentina and then to Switzerland in 1974. He claimed his Swiss passport and joined the Swiss Socialist Party, rarely losing touch with what was happening across the Atlantic.

The rest of his family was persecuted and fled to Argentina only to fall into the lay of yet another military coup.

Mr Jaccard lobbied the UN until his family were granted asylum in France. Here the versions differ: in Sainte-Croix they say he became worried when they did not turn up in Paris, and flew to Buenos Aires. His political friends claim he was a hero, on a secret mission to deliver a message to Chile's Communist underground. Either way, Alexei was last seen by his sister and airline staff in the Argentine capital a day after he arrived. Then the trail descends into the underworld controlled by the generals.

What is clear is that the young man with a Swiss passport disappeared into torture cells in Buenos Aires because of his Chilean background.

Through the years, Mr Jaccard's family, human rights campaigners, Swiss officials, and journalists followed a series of trials through Latin America. Once Argentina returned to democracy, a national commission listed Mr Jaccard in a group of 1,300 who were arrested but later seen alive in one of the junta's detention centres. Chile's inquiry 10 years later concluded he was seized on 16 May 1977 by Argentine police and the Chilean secret service.

Since General Pinochet was detained, the parliaments in Vaud, Sainte-Croix's canton, and Geneva have voted, purely symbolically, to back his prosecution. Neither is a hotbed of militancy. Even cautious Swiss diplomats are letting the press know they think it is ethically justified. Alexei Jaccard may turn out to be the pride of Sainte-Croix as well as Switzerland's most famous left-winger.

PETER CAPELLA

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BRIEFING

Bank of Ireland looks for a buy

THE Bank of Ireland said yesterday it is looking to make further acquisitions in the UK and could be willing to pay as much as £1bn (£200m) for the right deal. The bank, which bought the Bristol & West building society for £60m last year, has just received £78m from the sale of its stake in Citizens Bank in America, but chief financial officer Paul D'Alton insists that Ireland's second largest financial institution is not under pressure to rush out and buy. The bank, which yesterday reported a 34 per cent jump in six months profits before tax and exceptional to £299m, is seeking powers for a share buyback. Bristol & West more than doubled its profits contribution to £99m.

Second PFI review ordered

THE GOVERNMENT has asked Sir Malcolm Bates to carry out a second review of the operation of the Private Finance Initiative to see whether more can be done through public private partnerships to boost investment in public sector infrastructure, when the mandate of the existing Treasury task force expires next year. Sir Malcolm, who is chairman of electrical components distributor Premier Farnell, was brought in immediately after the election by Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson to kick start the PFI. The creation of the PFI task force was one of his main recommendations. Sir Malcolm has also been asked to see whether the Government can get better value for money by bringing in more private sector skills into the management of projects.

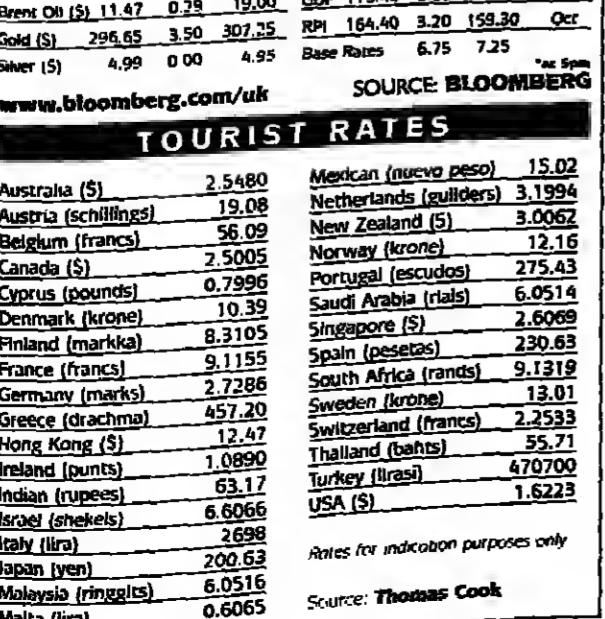
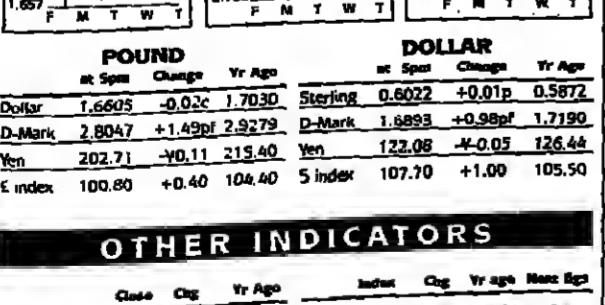
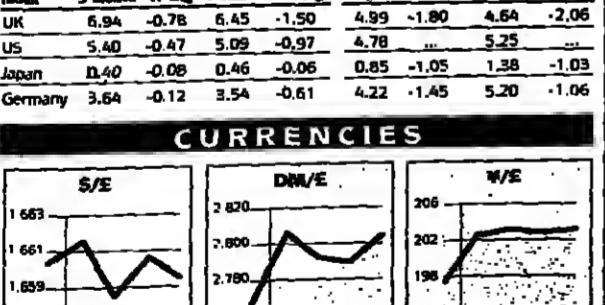
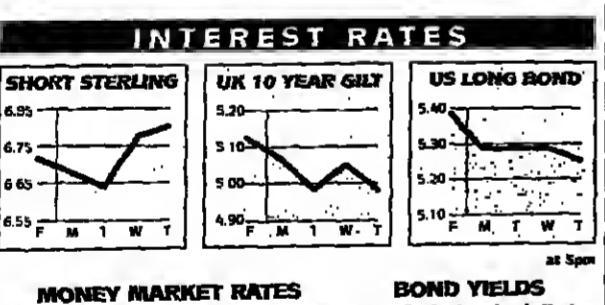
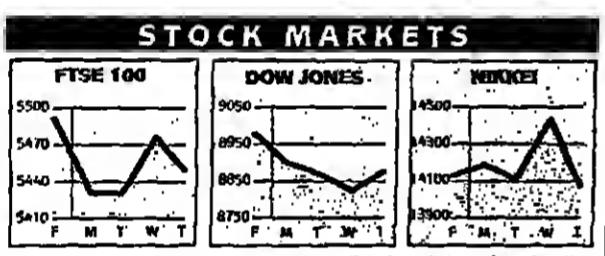
Outlook, page 23

Ladbrokes £9m down on new game

DISAPPOINTING sales of its new football lottery game Easy Play will wipe £9m off Ladbrokes' profits this year, the hotels and betting group said yesterday.

In an update on third quarter trading, Ladbrokes said that sales of the game, linked to the National Lottery, "have not been at predicted levels". Easy Play, launched in August, had a turnover of £200,000 a week, well below the company's expectations of "a few millions", a spokesman said. The leisure group reported an advance of around 20 per cent in third quarter profits. The performance was driven by a good showing in its betting business which offset some weakness in the Hilton hotels division.

Investment column, page 25



BUSINESS

14 Nov 1998

Zeneca puts £2bn price tag on chemicals arm

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ZENECA, THE drug giant, yesterday put its specialty chemicals business up for sale with a price tag of up to £2bn in a bid to focus on its pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals businesses.

The company said that it planned to sell Zeneca Specialties, which produces dyes for computer printers, colours, leather finishes and chemicals for drugs, to a single buyer by

next quarter of next year. Sir David Barnes said the rapid consolidation in the chemicals industry offered "the best long-term future for the business, its employees, customers and shareholders". Zeneca said it had received no offers for the business but industry analysts predicted that the announce-

ment will trigger a bidding war among the world's largest chemicals groups. Bidders are likely to include Du Pont and Dow of the US, Lepore of the UK and the Swiss giant Clariant, formed earlier this week through an \$820m merger between Clariant and Ciba Specialty Chemicals.

The City welcomed Zeneca's decision to exit the highly-cyclical chemicals business to focus on its core drug and agrochemicals units. Shares in Zeneca, which have suffered because of the chemicals operation, soared 28p to 2,283p after the news of the proposal.

Industry experts said the divestment increased the chances of a sale of the agrochemicals business as Zeneca strives to improve the perfor-

mance of its core drug-making business. The specialty chemicals division had sales of £855m last year, a fraction of Zeneca's £5.2bn turnover. Zeneca is set to retain Marlow Foods and two factories in Huddersfield and Grangemouth in Scotland.

Zeneaca Specialties' performance has improved steadily since Zeneca's demerger from Imperial Chemical Industries in 1993, with margins rising from six to 10 per cent over the past four years.

Martin Evans, the head of research at stockbroker Sutherlands, said the division "is much better than it was. It has reasonably good margins and a very good market position. This is a good deal for Zeneca and a good deal for the industry".

BT banks on Internet boom to beat recession

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday shrugged off worries about an economic slowdown as it reported a strong rise in profits powered by an explosion in Internet traffic.

Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, said BT was beginning to see signs of a slowdown and forecast that growth could slow next year to between zero and 1 per cent - lower than the Chancellor Gordon Brown's forecasts.

But he said it would not be a "bloodbath", and indicated that BT expected to be bolstered by the extraordinary rise in Internet, data and multimedia traffic on its network.

He was speaking as BT unveiled a 14 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits for the second quarter to £778m, fuelled by a sharp jump in business revenues and an explosion in the number of homes installing a second line to surf the Internet or link up to interactive services.

Top-line profits soared to £1.875m for the three months to the end of September as BT booked a £1.1m profit on the sale of its 20 per cent stake in MCI to WorldCom.

BT, which generates all its profits from UK operations and still accounts for more than 90 per cent of all telephone lines, restricted the net loss of residential lines to 65,000 during the half year compared with a reduction of 230,000 in the same period last year.

Robert Brace, finance director, said the slowdown in erosion of its domestic customer base was due more to households installing a second line than returning to BT from rival operators.

Despite £250m worth of price

reductions, BT's inland call revenues still rose by 2 per cent to just over £2.5bn during the six-month period on a 6 per cent rise in call volumes. However, international call revenues fell by 8 per cent to £733m.

Despite the £1.1bn MCI windfall and a gearing of just 4 per cent, BT gave little indication that it was planning to return large amounts of cash to shareholders following last year's £2bn special dividend.

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Budd spells out MPC's methods

THE DECISION-MAKING process of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is today spelt out by one of its members, amid concerns that a lack of information about the way its decisions are made could undermine the Bank's independence.

Writing in November's *Economic Journal*, Sir Alan Budd stresses that economic judgement plays a key role in Bank decisions, and explains that the MPC does not react to temporary changes in inflation, even if this means inflation misses its target.

Instead, Sir Alan writes, the MPC concentrates on the inflation outlook two years ahead.

He says: "Focusing on a period one to two years ahead provides a practical and approximate way of meeting the Chancellor's instruction that the target is 2.5 per cent at all times while avoiding undesirable fluctuations in output."

In his article, Sir Alan sets out one of the most detailed accounts to date of the MPC's decision-making process.

He emphasises the importance of the Bank's 12 regional agents, three of whom brief the MPC on anecdotal and survey evidence on the Friday preceding the monthly interest



Sir Alan Budd: Looking at outlook two years ahead

BY LEA PATERSON

rate meeting. In this regular pre-MPC meeting, which usually lasts a full day, the committee also tears detailed evidence from Bank economists on a wide range of issues.

The interest rate meeting itself is spread over two days, occupying an afternoon and the following morning. On the first day, the MPC revisits the issues raised in the Friday briefing, reserving discussion of the appropriate policy reaction until the next morning.

At the time of the quarterly inflation forecast the MPC has a series of lengthy meetings with Bank staff.

The MPC always holds a monthly interest rate meeting the week before the forecast is published, when it chooses the level of rates most likely to return inflation to target by the end of the two-year forecasting period.

Although the MPC has now been setting interest rates for more than a year, there is still uncertainty in the City about how the committee works. The perception that it is too insulated from the real world has attracted heavy criticism from industry.

Confusion about the precise interpretation of the inflation remit has also prompted concern in academic circles.

Writing in the same edition of the *Economic Journal*, Professor Charles Bean says that the Chancellor's phrasing of the inflation remit – in particular, the fact that the MPC is not told how quickly inflation should be brought back to target – runs the risk of jeopardising the Bank's independence.

However, Professor Bean concludes that, in practice, the scope for political interference in setting rates is limited.



Regional airports such as BAA-owned Glasgow are seen by some as an answer to congestion in the South-east. But BAA doubts that they can solve the problem

Easing the airport traffic jam

By PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

LONDON'S AIRPORTS are bursting. A decision on the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow is still months away, let alone a start to the building work. Passenger numbers are growing at 8 per cent year. The Government's solution? The country's regional airports.

This week the Government cleared the local authority-owned airports for take-off by relaxing Treasury borrowing restrictions. The airports have been clamouring to be set free, claiming that it would be good for them and their regional economies, and to relieve congestion at airports in the South-east. Giving financially sound local authority airports the power to raise private finance for development work will help us do that," he said.

The move will allow local authorities to raise development capital on the money markets from April 1, enabling them to bring forward expansion plans to cater for growing demand.

Although there are nine council-owned airports, only four are on the Government's radar for next year – Manchester, Newcastle, Leeds/Bradford and Norwich. Two others, Teesside and Gloucestershire, are on the margins of profitability while applications from Blackpool, Exeter and Humberside are considered extremely unlikely by the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions.

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local economies, and to relieve congestion at airports in the South-east. Giving financially sound local authority airports the power to raise private finance for development work will help us do that," he said.

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They will be able to expand more quickly than they would

have done under the current rules, which allow them to invest their retained profits. This could mean the development of hotel and shopping facilities – all vital for attracting the modern air traveller.

The latest annual report for BAA, which owns seven UK airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, illustrates the point. Whereas airport and other traffic charges amounted to £507m, a growth of 8 per cent, retail revenue leapt 45 per cent to £277m.

But BAA, which also owns Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Southampton, is not convinced provincial airports can provide the solution. Des Wilson, director of corporate affairs, said the company had lobbied strongly for the move the Government announced this week, stressing it was not a question of competition. But he said: "This will lead to very little relief for the South-east problem."

He said 80 per cent of passengers for London's airports come from the South-east and would be unlikely to want to travel to northern England for a flight. BAA expects the 85 million passengers at the London airports to double by 2015. "Even if Terminal 5 is approved and Gatwick and Stansted realise the full potential of their runways, we won't have sufficient capacity to meet demand."

Manchester Airport believes it can make an important contribution but wants the Government to go further in allowing it to operate commercially. The airport has seen passenger numbers soar by 50 per cent to 16 million over the last six years.

A spokeswoman said Manchester, currently the third largest in the UK, could overtake Gatwick within 10 years. "The South-east is congested and there is no more space at Heathrow or Gatwick. BAA is pulling forward its ex-

pansion plan for Stansted. It is very helpful that the Government has seen the role places like Manchester have to play."

She said regional airports feared that European terminals such as Amsterdam, which has seen a growth of between 30 and 40 per cent in the number of UK passengers, would simply suck up the spare demand.

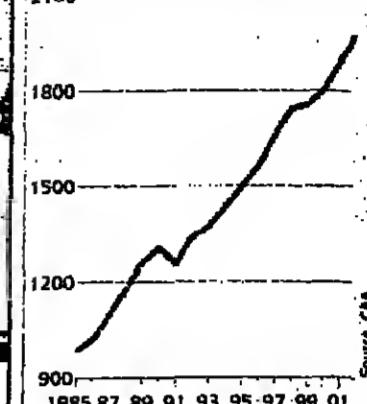
She said Manchester could easily attract more transatlantic airlines once it was able to expand and pointed to the 1 million passengers using shuttle services to Heathrow, half of whom she said were transferring to long-distance flights.

The regional airports want more from the Government. Even under the new rules, Manchester would not be able to invest as an equity partner in projects such as a high-speed transit system. As BAA has shown with its Heathrow Express, such schemes are crucial in attracting passengers.

	LIFT OFF	passenger, millions
Airport	1987	1997
Heathrow*	34.7	57.8
Gatwick*	19.4	26.8
Manchester	8.6	15.7
Glasgow*	3.4	6.0
Stansted*	0.71	5.4
Edinburgh*	1.8	4.2
Aberdeen	1.5	2.6
Newcastle	1.3	2.6
Leeds/Bradford	0.63	1.2
Southampton*	0.44	0.62
Teesside	0.29	0.56
Norwich	0.16	0.26

(*BAA-owned airports)

Total commercial flights in UK Airspace 1985-2002 (000s)



Source: CAA

News Analysis: London's air terminals are not going to be able to cope with rising passenger numbers. Can the regions come to the rescue?

Even the predicted levels of growth could turn out to be a severe underestimate if the "open skies" pact between the UK and US – currently grounded after a breakdown in talks – ever takes off. This would add restrictions on access to Heathrow for all US carriers.

BAA's Des Wilson said the solution was twofold. First, the green light for Terminal 5 and for a planned £200m expansion at Stansted would allow for another 7 million passengers. Secondly, the Government had to decide whether another runway was needed in the South-east and where that should go.

The Government's thinking will be revealed in its aviation White Paper promised in the transport White Paper next summer. It will contain a new policy on UK airports, looking 30 years ahead. More importantly it will contain the Government's policy on coping with South-east demand and therefore cannot be published until after the final decision is taken on Terminal 5, something that could still be 18 months away.

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GRE injects £300m into PPP in life insurance shake-up

BY ANDREW VERTHY

GUARDIAN ROYAL Exchange announced a sweeping restructuring of its life insurance business yesterday in response to months of pressure from the City.

The insurer sold the bulk of its life and pensions business to PPP lifetime care, its newly-acquired subsidiary, for £220m, after injecting £300m into PPP to develop its business.

The move allows GRE to distribute all the profits from critical illness and term assurance business to shareholders. PPP will now write nearly all of Guardian's health and protection business.

Before the restructuring,

had escaped from this dilemma by transferring its life business to PPP. Analysts welcomed the move.

John Robins, group chief executive, said: "Today's announcement is the culmination of many months' work, including liaison with HM Treasury. We have been determined to improve the returns from our life business for both shareholders and policyholders. Our acquisition of PPP healthcare group gave us the ideal opportunity."

GRE has already conducted three restructurings in the last two years and has cut its costs by 50 per cent over four years,

concentrating on health, protection and general insurance.

The announcement failed to quell speculation that GRE remains a prime candidate for a takeover. Yesterday the company said its overall operations remained under pressure.

In a separate trading statement, Mr Robins said: "Market trading conditions of other companies are consistent with our own experience, particularly in UK motor."

GRE said it should achieve savings of £25m from the integration of PPP, plus a further £20m from the integration of two US insurers, Peerless and Indiana, bought earlier this year.

Lucas to soothe investors

LUCAS VARIETY is to embark on a major charm offensive among City institutions following the shareholder rebellion that thwarted the group's attempt to shift its primary stock market listing and headquarters to the United States, writes Michael Harrison.

A board meeting is due to be held later this month to discuss how to go about fence-mending with UK investors. One Lucas-Variety board member said: "Clearly there are relationship issues between the company and its shareholders in the UK that have to be addressed."

The move to the US was blocked after a group of UK institutions holding 15 per cent of Lucas-Variety shares, led by Schroders, voted against the board. Other dissenting institutions were Legal & General, Standard Life, Norwich Union and Prudential.

Lucas-Variety insists that the position of Victor Rice, its chief executive and the main architect of the plan, is not under threat.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

the wife of the former Phillipine dictator, describing him as so ruthless that "Suharto and Imelda Marcos have nothing to teach" him. Mr Asher accused Mr Morland of contradicting himself in negotiations with the board over the future of the hotels-to-agriculture group, recently demerged from the late Tiny Rowland's mining group.

Mr Morland was unavailable for comment yesterday, but Joe Denby, a partner in Blak-

eyne, said that Mr Asher's comments "smack of desperation".

Lonrho Africa yesterday called a special shareholders' meeting, scheduled for 10 December, to vote on the board changes proposed by Blakney and fellow investment fund African Lakes, where one of the Sors funds owns 13 per cent.

Blakney and African Lakes – which hold 10.1 per cent of Lonrho – want to replace the current non-executive directors, including Mr Asher, with their nominees.

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Bank of Ireland (I)	(-)	£1.07m (F1.25m, 7m)	75.5p (33.8p)	9.2p (7.1p)	11.11.98	23.11.98
British Gas (I)	32,482m (30,850m)	45.2m (-1.8p)	5.5p (0.8p)	6.6p (0.8p)	06.11.98	14.12.98
British Telecommunications (I)	4,403m (4,000m)	805.0m (84.6m)	20.7p (5.5p)	-	-	-
Capitol Radio (F)	120.65m (113.83m)	25.98m (1.82m)	18.0p (1.5p)	15.25p (12.75p)	08.01.99	22.11.99
Channel 4 (I)	(-)	0.477m (0.502m)	2.88p (0.63p)	1.3p (1.1p)	29.01.98	10.11.98
Chase & Lloyds (I)	2,420m (2,531m)	1.79m (0.52m)	1.72p (0.53p)	1.5p (1.5p)	08.04.99	08.04.99
CIBA (I)	45,352m (47,231m)	2.51m (1.02m)	4.42p (1.45p)	2.25p (2.00p)	06.04.98	07.11.98
General Group (I)	(-)	20.4p (11.4p)	1.53p (0.5p)	8p (8p)	14.12.98	23.11.98
Guardian (I)	12.8m (12.7m)	5.6m (5.6m)	5.2p (0.6p)	-	-	-
The Home Office (I)	3.25m (3.23m)	0.81m (0.100m)	0.16p (0.02p)	-	-	-
John Lewis Group (I)	25.12m (25.12m)	1.01m (0.25m)				

The growth just keeps coming for BT

NO WONDER British Telecom has been one of the best performing stocks in the FTSE 100 this year. Despite giving away more than £2bn worth of tariff cuts over the past five years and the onset of quite marked competition in the telecommunications market, profits just keep surging ahead.

As fast as competitors and regulators eat into BT's revenues, volume grows to compensate, boosted recently by rapid growth in internet traffic, data and business services. For investors, plodding old BT has all of a sudden taken on a fabulously attractive disposition. It's still a reliable source of monopoly utility profit, but at the same time it's in the stock market's latest glamour sector, telecommunications. BT is seen as both defensive and potentially high growth - a quite rare combination.

Finally enough, this is how the Government tried to market the company to investors when it was privatised in 1984. BT should not be seen as a utility, its sponsors said, but a high growth, hi-tech enterprise at the forefront of the information tech-



OUTLOOK

nology revolution. Fourteen years later, the City is beginning to believe the story. Unprofitable upstarts like Colt can be valued at £4.5bn, BT must easily justify its £52bn valuation. With the share price having doubled this year, Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, must be starting to think its time to hang up his spurs.

It is still unkindly said in some parts of the City that this dramatic outperformance is small thanks to Sir Iain, whose planned merger with MCI of the US might have had disastrous consequences for the

share price. As it is, WorldCom stepped in and snatched the prize (deg?) from under Sir Iain's nose, thus saving BT from its own folly.

This is a trifle unfair, for actually the upward movement in BT's share price doesn't have a lot to do with the failure of the MCI deal. Rather, it's about a greater appreciation of the value of BT's assets in the deregulating continental market, and, of course, the company's core business back here at home.

And boy, does that core monopoly keep coining it. Competition from mobile, cable and specialist business service providers - is now providing a real spur to lower prices and greater efficiency, but such is the growth in the market that BT is barely feeling the effect. Take internet traffic. From hardly anything a few years back, internet access is now providing BT with "hundreds of millions of pounds" of revenue a year. Since the marginal cost of this extra traffic is virtually nil, the revenue goes straight through to the bottom line.

If this sort of growth persists, it will eventually create its own regulatory difficulties. BT and other telecommunications companies in Britain charge a standard local call rate for internet access. An internet call tends to be considerably longer in duration than an ordinary voice call, so the potential revenue gain from this sort of traffic is substantial. A recent study by Pacific Bell in California showed that 30 per cent of internet calls in the US last three hours, and 7.5 per cent last an astonishing 24 hours or more.

To some extent, this is caused by the structure of tariffs in the US. By paying a higher monthly rental, residential customers can obtain unlimited free local telephone, with the result that there is no cost penalty to prolonged use of the internet. By charging per minute for local telephony, BT both regulates over use of the network, avoiding the now common congestion encountered in the US, and gains a terrific boost to revenues at the same time.

Good for BT then, but not so good for the internet user, who might reasonably think he's being exploited.

It cannot be long before Ofcom begins sniffing around at these new sources of high growth revenue. Until it does, BT is sitting pretty. Through recession and boom, the growth just keeps coming.

even volunteers the information that the nine-strong committee of executives that runs PowerGen once overruled their executive chairman on a strategic business investment.

Perhaps Ed has learnt from the spot of bother Sir Richard Greenbury has landed himself in. Macho management only pays for so long. But at some point you have to begin planning the succession. Finding a successor is a bit like contracting to buy power station coal, a business that Mr Wallis knows rather more about. If you leave it until the last minute of the 11th hour, there is every danger of falling off a cliff edge rather than engineering a smooth transition.

Ed has identified three candidates from the executive ranks to whom he could pass the baton. At the moment, the favoured one looks to be Nick Baldwin, executive director of UK operations. But as many as former colleague could do well vouch. Uncle Ed can be a mercurial character. No wonder Mr Baldwin looks a mixture of bashfulness and sheer terror yesterday.

Private finance

THIS IS A Government mighty keen on policy reviews, so it was only a matter of time before a minister ordered a re-review of a review. Sir Malcolm Bates, chairman of Pemal Group, has been asked by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, to revisit his original review of the private finance initiative to see how the PFI might be further improved.

This was perhaps inevitable. Last week the Chancellor announced an £11bn target for PFI projects over the next three years. If the Government is to meet its public spending plans, the PFI is going to have to start delivering.

Unfortunately, as the Exchequer piles on the pressure for more PFI projects on the one hand, it is undermining their likelihood with the other by giving trade unions the right to veto these things for impact on public sector jobs. Sir Malcolm is going to find this review even more difficult than his last.

Dollar and oil rise sharply on Iraq worries

BY LEA PATERSON

THE ESCALATING crisis in Iraq prompted sharp rises in oil prices, the dollar and US government bonds yesterday.

The dollar hit a one-month high against the yen, with the disappointing economic package unveiled in Tokyo also helping to undermine the Japanese currency.

The US currency climbed more than 1.5 per cent to 123.88 yen, before later paring some of its gains in New York trade.

Dealers speculated that military intervention in the Gulf would disrupt oil deliveries from the region.

Early yesterday evening, December Brent crude oil futures were trading 18 cents higher at \$12.29 a barrel, having been up as much as 40 cents earlier in the day. However, dealers noted that Brent crude was still more than \$4 a barrel down on the year.

Investors began to move their money to the "safe haven" of US government bonds, which opened strongly higher in New York. Other bond markets also fared well, a reflection both of the tensions in the Gulf and the disappointing performance by Asian and European stock markets.

IN BRIEF



Young profits up but brewer warns of difficult conditions

JOHN YOUNG, chairman of Young & Co, yesterday unveiled a 5 per cent increase in adjusted pre-tax profits at the London-based brewer and drew attention to the "difficult market conditions" experienced across the industry, due to "poor summer weather and a general slowdown in consumer spending".

Blake Dixon, chairman of the dissident shareholder Guinness Peat Group, which failed in its attempt to break the three-tiered shareholding structure at July's annual meeting, admitted the figures "did not look bad" but maintained that enfranchising non-voting shareholders was the only way to increase City confidence and raise the capital to increase Young's retail base. The shares ended up 6 per cent at 627p, but still well below the July high of 810p.

Telewest cuts losses to £200m

TELEWEST, the cable TV and telephone operator, cut its losses to £200.2m in the nine months to the end of September compared with a loss of £225m at the same stage last year, but the size and potential of the business has been transformed by the acquisition of General Cable at the beginning of September, which gives the group 32 per cent of the UK residential cable market. Pre-merger revenues in the third quarter were 30 per cent higher at £164m. The cable network is now 75 per cent complete and capital expenditure will continue from a lower base in future, but break-even is still two to three years away.

Bemrose shares plunge

BEMROSE, a specialist printer of promotional material, has warned profits for the current year are likely to be 10 per cent down on last year's underlying profit of £25.2m because of a shortfall in sales of calendars and diaries in the UK and the US. The board said yesterday it expects to maintain the annual increase in dividends, but the warning sent Bemrose shares plunging to a low of 280p, down 77.5p on the day.

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KINGS LYNN **WORCESTER** **WITTON**

Oil shares higher in knee-jerk reaction

RENEWED TENSION in the Gulf had the predictable impact on the stock market; oil shares moved higher as the crude price strengthened. Although the world's oil supply is regarded as more than adequate a knee jerk reaction was inevitable.

So British Petroleum rose 13.5p to 389.5p and even much-criticised Shell flared 11.25p to 354.5p. Enterprise Oil ended 20p higher at 350 and Lasmo was up 5.5p at 173.5p.

Some defence stocks strengthened on the prospect of military action against Iraq, with British Aerospace 6p stronger at 444p and General Electric Co 4p firmer at 476p. Cobham, helped by an analysts meeting at Dresden Kleinwort Benson, climbed 47.5p to 805p.

The Iraqi brigade advanced as most of the market retreated. Footsie, at one time off 74.4 points, ended 27.8 down at 5,449 in moderate trading. Supporting shares also gave ground.

It was generally another lacklustre display with any near-term interest rate cuts on this side of the Atlantic seemingly ruled out but the



MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN

prospect of another US reduction still high on the agenda.

EMI, the showbiz group, fell 14.5p to 350p with DKB negative.

WTLP, the advertising consultancy, lost 11.5p to 320p as Warburg Dillon Read offered caution.

Prudential Corporation firms 2p to 222p following a presentation for its US offshoot Jackson National; a US quote for the Pru seems to be on the cards. GRC, the old Guardian Royal Exchange, was back in the takeover spotlight, jumping 5p to 229p in a late flurry of trading.

Danica Business Systems had another difficult session, off 6p to 38p. The hard-pressed group undermined its change of fortunes with half-year losses of £1.7m against

British American Tobacco firmed a further 4.5p to 523.5p on hopes of a US smoking and health settlement, but Pearson fell 31p to 1,000p as further difficulties seemed to loom over its US Simon & Schuster deal. The US fund which has agreed to buy part of S&S wants to cut the price it agreed to pay.

Granada continued to encounter anxiety over the ONdigital launch, falling 26p to 360p. Its digital partner, Carlton Communications, firmed 9.5p to 412.5p. Lehman Brothers is encouraged by ONdigital's prospects. It believes the digital interest is worth 35p a Granada share and 46p a Carlton share. Analyst Julian Roch says: "We see ONdigital as an investment of little risk for Granada... which could bear high rewards." The shares are regarded as a buy.

Zeneca firmed 28p to 2,289p following its decision to sell its pharmaceutical division, which could fetch up to £1bn.

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a £43m profit. The shares have crashed from almost 350p in the past two years.

Ladbroke's trading statement lifted the shares 6.5p to 231.5p. But BT fell 35p to 803p, registering

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10/11/98

SPORT

Football: Liverpool have handed control to a Frenchman with a finely honed, deeply considered philosophy of the game

Houllier the passionate enthusiast



RICHARD WILLIAMS

THE Liverpool players want to know a little more about what to expect from the man who took sole control of their destiny yesterday, they ought to consult a volume titled *Mirabeau: Compétence et Passion*, published in France five years ago. In its introduction, Gérard Houllier and his co-author, Jacques Revollet, write: "The best coaches haven't reached their position by accident. They owe their elevation to an ensemble of very varied qualities and a level of insight that distinguishes them from the majority of their colleagues."

They go on to list the qualities required of a good manager: "Realism, self-confidence, boldness, involvement, consistency, the ability to listen, an aptitude for making decisions, the capacity for leadership, recognised competence." To judge from Liverpool's limp performances in recent weeks, Houllier will need every one of those attributes, and then some, if he is to restore the fortunes of a great club.

Yet Houllier has already made an indelible, if indirect, mark on the history of English football. It was his enthusiasm for English football and his friendship with Howard Wilkinson that precipitated Eric Cantona's move from Marseilles to Leeds United in January 1992; thus writing the prologue to a story which was to bring glory first to Wilkinson's team and then, in much greater measure, to Alex Ferguson's Manchester United, with whom Cantona shaped the course of the Premier League's first decade.

A former schoolteacher who became the technical director of the French football federation, Houllier has the reputation of being a football boffin.

It was he who, 10 years ago, created the blueprint for France's fruitful and influential youth development policy. So significant was this initiative to the nation's footballing prosperity that Aimé Jacquet ordered an extra World Cup winners' medal to be struck for Houllier, in recognition of his contribution. Two years earlier, during the finals of Euro 96, Houllier was to be seen at matches the length and breadth of England, making detailed notes for Uefa's dossier on the evolution of football tactics and strategy.

In the French way, Houllier likes to analyse and philosophise. Seven years ago he responded with these words to my request for his views on his friend Cantona: "If I wanted to define him, I'd say that he's an island of freedom, generosity and pride." But such verbal flights cannot disguise the fact that he is a football man of flesh and blood, gregarious and eloquent, a



Houllier: His fondness for Liverpool ensures that his feeling for the job is rooted in the emotions that bind players and fans together

passionate enthusiast and a whole-hearted admirer of talent. The only thing he likes better than talking about the game is watching it.

Born in Lille in 1947, Houllier never played the game professionally. He spent several years as a schoolmaster - including a fateful spell in Liverpool, where he watched Bob Paisley's teams from The Kop. He was 32 when he took his first job in football, as coach with Nœux-les-Mines, the little colliery town in Flanders where the great Raymond Kopa, the son of an immigrant Polish miner, had been given his start in the early 1950s.

Within three years Houllier had taken Nœux from the Fifth to the Second Division.

A move in 1982 to nearby Lens, of the First Division, led to further success, and a place in Europe. Three years later he was attracted to the more sophisticated ambi-

tance of Paris Saint-Germain, bringing the French championship to the Parc des Princes in his second season.

Having established his credentials in club football, in 1988 he accepted an offer to join the French

His task was simply to raise the overall standard of French football. "In the 70s," he said, "we were useless. Nothing at all in terms of European or world football, at youth or senior level." Even the successes of the Platini-Giresse-Tigana side of the

gramme for each player. But when Houllier took charge, he identified a more profound problem.

"We noticed that when a boy arrived at a centre at 15 or 16, he had something lacking in his skills, it was difficult to help him catch up. So we

His maxim was simple: "The better the work at the base, the better it is for the élite." And of those first 20 boys, 11 went on to join professional clubs. Half-a-dozen later, the figure was up to 95 per cent.

The first group included Thierry Henry, the fleet-footed star of Monaco and France's World Cup squad, and Nicolas Anelka, Arsenal's young prodigy, whom Houllier described to me last year as "the most promising player of his age I've ever seen". This week he revised his estimate, calling the young Gunner "a certain future winner of the Ballon d'Or".

In 1992 Houllier took over from Platini as *selectionneur*, an appointment which led to the only serious reverse of his career to date. France's campaign to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals had not been exactly scintillating by the time

You must train your player, when he gets the ball, to go forward. It sounds silly. It is not. If your first pass is square or back it changes the whole game. That's very, very important'

Football Federation. "I was recruited to become the technical director," he told me last year, "but I asked to postpone that for a while in order to get used to the way things worked." For two years he worked as assistant to Michel Platini, the national coach, before assuming his designated position in 1990.

early 80s, including victory in the 1984 European Championship, seemed built on sand, or at least on the talents of a few gifted individuals. Houllier's predecessor had taken the wise step of ordering every professional club to create a "centre de formation", a youth development training centre, with a five-year pro-

tried an experiment. We decided to take hold of them earlier, at 10 or 12, and work on one thing: skills, skills, skills. Only skills. No physical pressure, nothing like that. As soon as we started that, the results from the first group of 20 boys were so outstanding that we knew we had to do it everywhere."

Hussain and Cork discarded

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Cairns

ENGLAND'S QUEST for the Ashes took a back seat briefly yesterday as the squad was announced for the Carlton United one-day triangular series that follows the Tests. The 23-man squad, which will be narrowed down to 18 in January, is probably more noteworthy for who it excluded than for the names that made the rough cut. At a time when the first serious cricket of the winter is about to get under way, both Nasser Hussain and Dominic Cork will feel more than a little aggrieved at not having their air miles and visas extended.

The pair, along with Mark Ramprakash, who last played a one-day game for England in the West Indies eight months ago, and Alistair Brown, recently involved in Bangladesh, must now realise their hopes of being involved in next May's World Cup are fading. Unless they play in Sharjah, where another one-day tournament is scheduled for the end of March, the biggest show in cricket will be a spectacle rather than a personal experience.

The psychology surrounding the timing of the announcement is interesting and the selectors obviously wanted the trio - all key members of the Test side - to deal with their disappointment before the Ashes

the heavy workload faced by Alec." With England promptly exiting the knock-out tournament in Bangladesh after a single match, the selectors will have little to go on when they come to their final pruning session. Whether players like Alleyne, Wells and Doug Brown remain more than token nods towards geography - see, we do come and watch Unfashionableshire - remains to be seen.

If the selectors are still keen to experiment in the build-up to the World Cup, there can be few more rigorous conditions to test untried players than a 13-match series involving Australia - confidence brimming after their clean sweep in Pakistan - and Sri Lanka, the current world champions.

Potential inferiority complexes do not come in much bigger doses than that, and England will need every scrap of home advantage come the World Cup, should they end up being overwhelmed here in January.

Ben Hollioake has been virtually ruled out of England's plans for the opening two Tests of the Ashes series after being overlooked for their final warm-up match against Queensland, which started in Cairns today. Hollioake, who celebrated his

21st birthday two days ago, has not featured in any of England's matches since straining his groin batting in the tour opener against an ACB Chairman's XI in Lilac Hill nearly three weeks ago.

Hollooake had his first bowl in the nets yesterday since sustaining the injury last week, but Stewart admitted that his Surrey team-mate was only operating at "around 70 to 80 per cent", so there was no choice but to overlook him against a strong Queensland line-up featuring eight international players.

And, with back-to-back Tests in Brisbane and Perth immediately following this match, Hollioake is relegated to a spell on the sidelines until England face Victoria at the MCG on 5 December. "We wanted to give our more experienced players plenty of cricket before the back-to-back Tests," said the tour manager, Graham Gooch. "It's bad luck on the lad, but we had to be realistic."

Graham Thorpe is also rested as a precaution after his first lengthy innings since his return from back operation, but all four senior seamers - Darren Gough, Dominic Cork, Alan Mullally and Angus Fraser - were in the 12-man squad. "We will look at the conditions in the morning but it is

likely one of the seamers will be left out," Gooch said yesterday. "The pitch is likely to be a bit damp after all the rain they have had here, but it is much better to be here in the same environment as the Test in Brisbane and we have done everything right in terms of preparation."

ENGLAND SQUAD (Carlton United one-day triangular series): Hussain (Surrey), Alleyne (Surrey), Wells (Surrey), Brown (Middlesex), Gooch (Lancashire), Craft (Glamorgan), Estham (Kent), Fletcher (Lancashire), Fleming (West), Thorpe (Surrey), Mullally (Worcestershire), Hollioake (Surrey), Hogg (Lancashire), Headley (Kent), Hepple (Lancashire), Higgs (Worcestershire), A. Hollies (Surrey), Ali (Middlesex (Surrey), Knight (Warwickshire), Morris (Leicestershire), Murray (Leicestershire), Thorpe (Surrey), Willis (Leicestershire).

FLOYD REIFER is to replace the injured batsman Jimmy Adams on the West Indies' tour of South Africa. The West Indies Cricket Board said yesterday that Adams would return to the Caribbean after slicing open a finger on his right hand with a bread knife during the team's flight to South Africa on Monday.

Reifer, the Barbados batsman, toured South Africa with a West Indies A team last season. In 10 first-class innings he scored just 101 runs. The 26-year-old left-hander has played two Tests and a one-day international.

The West Indies are in Kimberley preparing for the opening first-class match of their tour against Griqueland West starting tomorrow.

Muttiah Muralitharan, Sri Lanka's star spinner, has been warned that his controversial action will be under close scrutiny during the triangular tournament against Australia and England in January.

"This pitch never looked good," King said. "Some pitches don't look good and play all right, but unfortunately this one didn't."

Cowie said there were suggestions that the teams continue with spinners, but added: "We couldn't play golden oldies rules at this level". Poldstian A had made 141 for 6, chasing the Northern total of 272.



Hegg: Back-up for Stewart

Reifer steps in for injured Adams

Hussain, who called Muralitharan for throwing seven times in a three-over spell in a Test at Melbourne in 1995, insists he will judge each ball individually. "I am a ball-by-ball umpire," he said. "I have never prejudiced any player, and that will be the case again."

The Pakistan A tour match against the Northern Conference in Timaru, New Zealand, was abandoned by the umpires Doug Cowie and Chris King yesterday after two of the tourists' batsmen suffered broken bones. Waqanahullah Wasti sustained fractured ribs and Taimur Khan suffered a broken thumb. The incidents came in the middle session of the second day after the home side had batted without trouble during the morning.

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Evans near to tears as he leaves Liverpool

ROY EVANS yesterday parted company with Liverpool, the club he has served for 33 years. Evans and David Moores, the Liverpool chairman, made the announcement, and the joint-manager Gérard Houllier took sole control of the club.

"Today is a sad day for Liverpool and me personally," Moores said. "We have agreed by mutual consent that Roy and Doug Livermore, his assistant, are leaving the club. I would like to pay tribute to all he [Evans] has done for the club for 35 years. I offered Roy another position at the club but he has chosen to have a break. I could talk for hours about Roy and my respect for him."

BY PAUL WALKER

Evans said: "I'd like to thank the chairman and board for the support they have given me. I have felt over the past three or four weeks that things have not been working out. I dispute the theory that my time here has been a failure – fourth, third, fourth, third in my seasons here is not failure. That record is second only to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United."

Asked why he refused to take another post at Anfield, Evans said: "It would be easy to stay, but to give Gérard and his team a chance, you have to walk away. I know I could

have stayed here, but I decided to make a complete break. I didn't want to end as a ghost on the wall."

Of his future, Evans said: "I don't know what I will do. I just want to get this over today. I cannot imagine working at another club. I am 50, not exactly old and not ready for the dustbin. I want to relax a bit. I want this club to get on – that is the most important thing."

Evans was asked if it was fair that he took the blame for failure. "It is not a matter of one man taking the blame. It is what is in the best interests of the club. I went into the partnership with Gérard with my eyes open and hoping it could work.

It hasn't worked. Results have not gone our way."

Almost in tears, he added: "It is not about the relationship between me and Gérard. It had nothing to do with personalities. It just did not work out. You just feel it is not the right formula for players. They do not know who the boss is."

Moores added: "We have to go forward. It is sad for me personally because I have known Roy as a teenager; but you have to think of the club. It always comes first."

Moores confirmed that Phil Thompson, the former Liverpool defender and coach, will be returning to the club as assistant manager.

The chairman said: "Phil is passionate about the club and desperately wants success."

Houllier, who will be in sole charge against Leeds at Anfield tomorrow, sat alongside his new assistant and said: "This morning was one of the saddest and most emotional moments of my Liverpool days. I spent some time with Roy in my office, knowing that was the end of our partnership."

"Being the sole manager I asked if we could have an assistant manager who had a Liverpool heart, if you like, a Liverpool figure. They recommended Phil."

"I am not going to cheat, I am

not going to tell you I have known Phil for a long time."

Houllier indicated that he would be entering the transfer market sooner rather than later. "We need some players," he admitted. "It is not easy because there is not a lot around. We do need some players and I have the assurance that I have the financial backing for that."

Thompson said: "There might be a few hearts getting broken. I've been brought to bring in a kick-up-the-backside to a lot of players. I think most people realise this is one of the greatest days of my life."

"I got a shock yesterday when I was about to take part in a five-a-

side. I was getting changed when Peter Robinson [the Anfield vice-chairman] phoned. That's the way it happened. It was a major, major shock to me. I thought my time had passed. I have been involved in the game but not at this level."

Houllier spelt out his immediate plans yesterday. "The next game [against Leeds] is the most important one. Maybe things have been going too well. Maybe we need to improve the fluidity of the game. We need to get some players in to reinforce the team. We are here because the players did not kick the ball the right way. We cannot kick the ball for the players."

The Dane who has earned greatness

GUY HODGSON looks back on the Old Trafford career of one of the world's outstanding goalkeepers

IT IS debatable how many Manchester United players would feel confident enough to say it, but Brian McClair was willing to tease. "It must be wonderful to have the power to make so many people delirious with mirth," he said to Peter Schmeichel, who was mulling over a grotesque mishap that had allowed Barnsley an FA Cup goal last season. The goalkeeper's reply is not printable.

But McClair was right. If the nation – or the Manchester United-hating part of it – had been given a vote on the most glorious football moment last year, then the great Dane's lapse last February would only have been topped by Michael Owen's goal against Argentina.

To put it succinctly, Schmeichel, who yesterday announced he will leave Old Trafford at the end of the season, is despised. Not because he appears arrogant, not because he has the gall to rant at his own players, but because he is so very good.

From the moment he walks on to the pitch, hoofing the ball into space and brandishing a towel over his shoulder like a matador's cape, he seems the embodiment of a perceived United superiority complex.

That is fine in a player prone to temperamental lapses like Eric Cantona – you have something to gloat about – but there were whole seasons when Schmeichel never seemed to make a mistake. In 1994-95, for example, when he conceded only 18 goals in the League and United still finished runners-up, or the following year when he, even more than Le Roix, was responsible for Alex Ferguson's team overhauling Newcastle.

The title "A Rage For Perfection" has already been used for a book about John McEnroe, but it could easily have fitted the Dane, whose volcanic eruptions became a trademark as much as his saves. He expected exemplary performances from his defenders as much as he demanded them from himself and, like Cantona, when he could not guarantee them, he chose to leave United.

While Cantona left football completely, Schmeichel, who will be 35 next Wednesday, has chosen to move abroad, where the physical demands are less. "I am enjoying the game as much as ever," he said yesterday, "but it is getting harder to keep pace. I need to train more than I have ever had to in order to prepare myself properly. I need more time between matches than I can get in England."

His going will virtually complete the dismantling of Ferguson's first great side which won United their first championship in 26 years in 1992-93 and the Double the following year.

His handing has been unsure and his mistake against Bayern Munich cost United two Champions' League points. He is still a good goalkeeper, but greatness might have passed him by and the chance to recapture that surely influenced yesterday's decision.

The chance to bow out of Old Trafford by winning the European Cup remains, however, and in January he will be among the nominated candidates when the European goalkeeper of the century is announced.

It is a measure of his ability that, if he wins, there will not be howls of protest.



Manchester United action man: Peter Schmeichel has ranted, soared and dived to bring the trophies to Old Trafford Empics

Bolton suffer £17m financial burden of Burnden

BOLTON WANDERERS announced yesterday that they have debts of £17m owing to their difficulties selling Burnden Park.

The First Division club's plight was revealed in figures by their parent company, Burden Leisure plc. Even the sale of striker Nathan Blake to Blackburn for £4.25m has made little difference, and there could be other departures.

Bolton lost 24.7m last year in the Premier League, and they have borrowed £1.3m anticipating the sale of Burnden Park. There have been major difficulties selling the old sta-

tional John Filan the jersey during the absence of Flowers. He is also just back from injury. The Flowers blow is the latest to rock Blackburn in a campaign that is the worst Hodgson has known for injuries.

Celtic are negotiating with Blackpool to sign their promising goalkeeper, Steve Banks, to help them out of a crisis. The Parkehead club are speaking to the Second Division outfit about a proposed £600,000 switch for Banks. They have some key fixtures coming up, including the Old Firm match next weekend.

Banks has earned rave reviews

for the past couple of years and has been a target for months. Injuries to Jonathan Gould and Stuart Kerr have forced the Glasgow club to act.

Rangers' head coach, Dick Advocaat, is in talks with the veteran German keeper, Andreas Köpke. The Dutchman hopes to recruit the 35-year-old who has walked out on his French club, Marseilles, after a dispute with their coach.

The Ibrox chairman, David Murray, has given the go-ahead for the signing of a stop-gap after the Frenchman Linnell Charbonnier was ruled out for the rest of the season

with knee trouble. Köpke has played in Europe this season, so he could not appear for Rangers in the UEFA Cup and would only be eligible domestically. Borussia Dortmund are also keen on him.

Dundee are on course to upgrade their Dens Park ground in time for next season, in line with Premier League guidelines.

Work on the stadium will begin early in the New Year after new funding packages for a £2.7m redevelopment were confirmed yesterday.

The Tayside club are indebted to the Scottish Sports Council Lottery

Sports Fund, who have weighed in with £1m, and the Football Trust.

They have donated £366,800 and also given Dundee a £200,000 loan for the work which will bring the capacity to a 10,000 all-seat stadium.

Huddersfield have decided not to pursue their interest in Jamaica's World Cup captain, Ian Goodison, who had been on trial at the McAlpine Stadium. He played in two reserve games, but Town's manager, Peter Jackson, said: "Ian did quite well for us while he was played here, but to be honest he is not the sort of player I am looking for."

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LEE SHARPE, placed on the transfer list yesterday by Leeds United, believes he can do for his next club what Marc Overmars has done for Arsenal.

Howard Wilkinson might have been thinking along similar lines when he paid Manchester United £4.5m to bring him to Elland Road just over two years ago. The move had not proved particularly successful for the 27-year-old former England winger – and Sharpe has been told by Leeds' new manager, David O'Leary, that he did not figure in his future plans.

His chance of reproducing the exciting form he showed in his early career was hampered by a knee ligament injury pre-season last year, which ruled him out of the entire 1997-98 campaign. Although he started the opening game of this season, neither O'Leary nor his predecessor, George Graham, have given him a run in the side.

Sharpe believes he still has what it takes to perform at the highest level. He said: "If I'm not going to be part of David's plans then I've got to swallow my pride, suck the lemon, wipe my mouth and move on to the next thing in life. The last thing I need now is to be sitting on the bench and not being involved. It has been 18 months now since I had a run, I just need games."

Fulham have been linked with Sharpe, but it is more likely that Southampton, Everton or Sheffield Wednesday could make a move, while Benfica have also been mentioned.

Money will also play its part as Leeds will want to recoup as much as possible if the £4.5m fee they paid for Sharpe. O'Leary is refusing to set any minimum limit, although it is believed around £1.5m would be enough to see him move away from a club where he has made only 37 league and cup appearances in 28 months.

Halifax Town have banned their captain, Kevin Hulme, for two weeks for his part in a 20-player brawl during the Third Division match against Chester on Tuesday. The midfielder, who has also been fined a fortnight's wages, will miss tonight's FA Cup first-round tie at Manchester City.

Halifax's chairman, Jim Brown, said: "The match video makes horrific viewing. The things happening on the field were disgraceful and Halifax Town Football Club cannot and will not tolerate scenes like that."

Hulme, shown a red card along with Chester's Chris Priest for violent conduct, attempted to chase after his opposite number as Priest made his way down the tunnel but was restrained by his player-manager, Kieran O'Regan, and stewards.

Halifax will also be without the striker Steve Guinan, as he has returned to Nottingham Forest after a one-month loan spell.

For their part, City will have to make enforced changes. The defender Richard Edghill is ruled out with a suspected broken toe and the striker Michael Branch, on loan from Everton, is ineligible. But the captain, Jamie Pollock, is back in the squad after a hernia operation and suspension as Royle bids to bounce back from the mid-week League defeat at Wycombe.

"Halifax are flying at the moment and they will provide a very tough test for us," Royle said. "If we play to our full potential we can win. The lads are ready for it and a good Cup run would bring in much-needed cash. We have to make Maine Road a fortress."

The last time the two clubs met was in the third round of the Cup on 3 January 1980 when Halifax, of the Fourth Division, beat then First Division City 1-0 at The Shay.

The Under-18 tournament in Israel that England were scheduled to play in has been postponed at the last minute due to the worsening political situation in Iraq. European football's governing body, Uefa, has called off next week's event, involving Spain, Andorra and Israel, after a plea from the Football Association.

Cuba race to world whitewash
VOLLEYBALL

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Friday 13 November 1998

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Rusedski continues his march

GREG RUSEDSKI'S superb run continued yesterday when he powered into the third round of the Stockholm Open at the expense of the American, Vince Spades.

The British No 2, still on a high from his victory over Pete Sampras in the final of the Paris Indoor Open, swept aside Spades 6-1, 6-4. The win keeps alive Rusedski's hopes of qualifying for the lucrative end-of-season finale ATP Tour World Championship in Hanover.

Rusedski, broken by Spades for the first time in the tournament, said: "I'm just taking one step at a time. I have a difficult opponent in the quarter-finals."

Meeting a Canadian in the quarters does not mean Rusedski will be extra-motivated. "It won't be different than any other match," he said.

"I played Daniel at Wimbledon in our last meeting and I won in straight sets. It's just going to be another match out there really. I've known him since I was young and we both

played a few times in juniors as well. It's going to be a good match."

The Briton, the world's top indoor player this year with 31 victories, was referring to Daniel Nestor, his quarter-final opponent. Nestor, ranked only 115th in the world, beat the French sixth-seed, Cedric Pioline, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, in his second-round match yesterday.

Nestor is still confident he can win in Hanover, eclipsing Jimmy Connors's 1974-78 record of finishing five years straight as No 1. "Hopefully I will play some good tennis there," he said.

Venus Williams has withdrawn from next week's Chase Championships because of a knee injury. The 16-year-old American, who had qualified to make her a debut at the 16-strong WTA Tour finale at Madison Square Garden, New York, has been troubled by her left knee for most of the year.

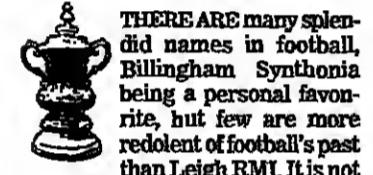
Williams' absence has improved Steffi Graf's chances of playing in the Chase. The former world No 1, who returned from wrist surgery to win last week's tournament in Leipzig, was ranked No 17 at the start of this week's Advances Championship in Philadelphia.

Going into yesterday's matches, a loss by Japan's Ai Sugiyama to Monica Seles or a win by Graf against the Russian Elena Likhovtseva in the second round would enable Graf to qualify along with Romania's Irina Spirlea.

Graf's qualification would see eight current or former champions in the field for the first time - Graf, Lindsay Davenport, Martina Hingis, Jana Novotna, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Seles, Mary Pierce, and Conchita Martinez.

Peter Smyth, of Leigh RMI, practises outside the club's Hilton Park ground before the glamorous trip to London and Sunday's date with Fulham Rui Vieira

Full steam ahead at Leigh



THERE ARE many splendid names in football, Billingham Synthonia being a personal favourite, but few are more redundant of football's past than Leigh RMI. It is not the Leigh that attracts (indeed, many people in Lancashire find that most offensive) but the initials which stand for Railway Mechanics' Institute. You can almost hear the steam hiss.

Professional football and the iron horse went hand in hand in the 19th century and it was the giants of the industry who formed the first teams, including Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, who you might know as Manchester United. RMI were their equals then, a branch line of the same company 20 miles away. A slight distance, but, opened between them, since.

That was RMI's big time, and they only hinted at a revival subsequently. Two trips to the FA Cup's first round when the initials were prefaced with the name of their original home town, Horwich, and a few trophies acquired in the minor leagues of the north-west hut, their

evocative name apart, they have been largely anonymous.

Until Sunday, that is, when the UniBond League Premier Division side face Kevin Keegan's Fulham, Mohammed Al Fayeed's millions and all, in the first round of the FA Cup.

At this stage it is the closest you are going to get to the David versus Goliath contests that sustain the competition.

"It's frightening," Steve Waywell, the manager who will be the equal of Keegan for the only time of his life, said. "But nice because it gives our lads a chance to play against internationals. They're in the Second Division but if they were in the First they'd be pushing for the Premiership. I know that for a fact. We're going to have to work on our game just to live with them."

Waywell, 47, was a professional footballer himself, but was one of only two members of the Burnley Youth Cup-winning team of the 1960s not to make it to the first XI.

His team-mate, Dave Thomas, went on to play for England; disillusioned, he declined a chance of a trial with Halifax Town and joined the non-League ranks.

He played for Darwen, Rossendale, Shalford, Hyde, and Horwich (playing against Blackpool when they last reached the Cup's first round) and returned to manage the club in the last game of the 1995-96 season. Since then he has overseen one promotion and last year the club only just missed out on another rise in status to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The success has partly soothed bruised opinion, which respected RMI leaving Horwich to become Leigh in 1994. The move was seen as a betrayal at the time, even though they were buying out the Rugby League club rather than moving in as tenants, and only recently have crowds risen again to around 350. The Cup run seems to have broken the last remnants of re-

sistance and around 2,000 supporters will travel to Craven Cottage on Sunday.

"The club is buzzing," Waywell said. "We've had Sky, Granada, the BBC, everybody at the ground. Everyone wants to be involved with us. I only hope we do ourselves justice because at the back of your mind you always fear 'you're going to get a trouncing'. I'll be happy if we play to our capabilities."

"Manchester City went, Preston went, Burnley, Oldham, and I thought: 'There's only Runcorn left,' which would have been a disaster for us. I thought the draw was still done on a regional basis, so it was a shock when we got Fulham. Apart from City, it's the best we could get."

No one knows how much Leigh will make from the tie, but £20,000 is a fair estimate for a club whose record transfer is less than a seventh of that, is a windfall comparable to millions at Old Trafford.

As a consequence they will trav-

el down on Saturday in the full-time manner. "We're doing it right because it could mean the difference of two goals on Sunday," Waywell said. "When we were at Blackpool it was 'get on the coach, get changed and play'. If we'd prepared better we might have got a result. The score flattered them because it was 0-0 for more than hour until fitness got hold of us and we lost 3-0."

"People are looking at the Fulham game and saying 'it's your Cup final, it's a holiday' but we can't think like that. We have to be professional. Then the players will have no excuses."

Waywell was a great admirer of Newcastle United in the Messian period and is excited he will be meeting the Fulham manager. "I can't compare myself with Kevin Keegan, can I? He's been European Footballer of the year, an England international and manager of Newcastle. I can't say I'm putting my wits against him because we're so different. People tell me he's smashing his bloke and he's invited us out while we're down there."

A date with Keegan and fashionable west London. For RMI, read VIP this Sunday.

Busy Canterbury will take some stopping

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

the first of their three National League titles the following season, Havant men - who should return with the points from Hounslow tomorrow - entertain Cambridge City in the Cup, while the women are at home to Wimbledon in the League and then entertain Worcester Northern from the C Division of the Midland League on Sunday. It should be an all-conquering weekend for the Kent club.

Havant's weekend is likely to be less productive, particularly on Sunday when the men entertain Reading and the women take on the formidable Slough. Win or lose, Havant plan to make it a memorable day as they introduce the Berkshire clubs to their new Desso water-based artificial turf pitch.

Sandy Broad, the women's captain, commented: "To draw Slough in the Cup is a fantastic opportunity for all the girls at Havant. I know they will give the game their all and enjoy the occasion and, who knows, anything can happen in the cup."

Back puts defender Babb out of Ireland squad

PHIL BABB is out of the Republic of Ireland squad for Wednesday's European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia in Belgrade.

The Liverpool defender has not played club football since injuring a bone in his back after colliding with an upright against Chelsea five weeks ago. With 18 players in the squad, no replacement has been called up.

There has still been no resolution of the club v country dispute, with the Football Association of Ireland insisting that its Under-21 squad assembles in Dublin tonight and the full senior squad at noon tomorrow.

Earlier, Fifa had suggested that the FAI and the English FA negotiate with the clubs on a five-day release to players, enabling them to line up for the next home game against Leeds. The FAI has rejected that suggestion.

About 1,000 Irish fans intend to travel to the game which was originally scheduled for 10 October, but postponed until next Wednesday.

and Yugoslav authorities have confirmed that the Irish fans will not have to purchase new visas to enter Yugoslavia.

Manchester United will dig up and re-turf most of the Old Trafford pitch on Sunday after the game against Blackburn. Ground staff will have 14 days to complete the work before the next home game against Leeds. The pitch was re-laid during the summer but cut up in last Sunday's 0-0 draw with Newcastle.

Crystal Palace were yesterday

served with a writ for more than £1m for a defaulted loan payment due to the club's former owner, Ron Noades. Aftonwood Ltd, a company owned by Noades, served the writ after Palace's chairman, Mark Goldberg, failed to make a £50,000 loan repayment due to the company last month.

The Oxford United winger, Joey Beauchamp, has asked for time to think over a £200,000 move to Nottingham Forest.

John Barnwell has insisted the

League Managers' Association is not up in arms at the continuing trend of club chairmen becoming managers - but the LMA chief executive warned of a conflict of interest in certain situations.

Lincoln City's chairman, John Reames, this week joined Noades and Carlisle's Michael Knighton in assuming control of team affairs, but Barnwell said: "I don't think these men are really the managers. They all employ coaches to carry out the football side of things."

Cuba race to world whitewash

VOLLEYBALL

CUBA CONFIRMED their status as the undisputed top women's team by retaining the World Championship with a 3-0 win over China in the final in Osaka yesterday.

Cuba's 15-4, 16-14, 15-12 victory allowed them to complete a gold medal double, their two World championships combining with back-to-back Olympic titles in 1982 and 1996.

Except for Cuba's new skin-tight strip, little had changed in the two years since the countries met in the Olympic final in Atlanta, where the Cubans prevailed by the same scoreline.

China, who landed back-to-back World titles in 1982 and 1986, meekly surrendered the opening set but offered more resistance in the second and third, though without significantly tilting the balance.

The Cubans also took most of the individual awards, including World's best player, which went to Regla Torres Herrera.

ATHLETICS

Charges of sexual misconduct and attempted rape against the Norwegian coach, Kjetil Arne Husby, were dropped yesterday due to a lack of evidence. Husby, 45, had been accused of sexually harassing two of his female athletes, one of whom claimed she tried to rape her. Prior to the charges he was let go as the man who coached the middle-distance runner Veronika Rodal to the Olympic 800m gold at Atlanta in 1996. Rodal fired the coach immediately after the allegations first surfaced. "I have no comment to make," said yesterday.

BASKETBALL

The power forward and 11-times All-Star team member, Karl Malone, has announced his intention to move on after 13 years with Utah Jazz. Malone, who scored 30,000 points in his career, will be replaced by Mark Eaton.

Malone, 37, has signed a one-year deal with the Los Angeles Lakers.

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SPORT

TIZZARD THE RACING BLIZZARD P28 • WHAT MAKES HOUILLIER TICK? P27

Football: Premiership strains force Danish goalkeeper to quit after seven glorious years at Old Trafford

Pressure tells on Schmeichel

PETER SCHMEICHEL announced yesterday he will retire as Manchester United's goalkeeper at the end of the season, leading to speculation that United will look to Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich to fill the great Dane's boots.

While Schmeichel, 35 next week, was saying he can no longer cope with the demands of the English game and he intends to continue his career abroad, Bosnich appeared to be the favourite to succeed the Danish international between the posts at Old Trafford.

Raimond van der Gouw, the current deputy for the No1 shirt, is himself eight months older than Schmeichel and is not a long-term prospect, and United's other keeper is 20-year-old Nicky Culkin, who has yet to play a League match for the senior side. United have reportedly been tracking Australia's Bosnich - who becomes a free agent in the summer under the Bosman ruling - and will be keen to have a successor to Schmeichel in place well ahead of his departure.

Bosnich, who by refusing to sign an extension to his contract has given no indication he intends to stay at Villa Park, could well be attracted by a move back to Old Trafford. When he left the Australian side, Croatia Sydney, in 1989, United was his first club in England. He played only three first team games before leaving for Villa in 1991, the year Schmeichel arrived, and made the goalkeeping's shirt his own.

Alex Ferguson, United's manager, said last night he intended to move quickly to replace Schmeichel. "We're going to have to move pretty soon but we're looking at certain situations," he said. Should any move for Bosnich fail, Ipswich's highly-rated England Under-21 international, Richard Wright, would be a leading candidate.

Schmeichel, who will be 35 next Wednesday and has helped United to 12 major honours since joining from Brondby in August 1991 for £50,000, said yesterday: "I'm enjoying the game as much as ever but it's getting harder to keep pace.

"I need to train more than I have ever had to and in order to prepare myself properly, I

BY NICK HARRIS

need more time between games than I can get in England. I certainly need more than 12 days' summer holiday.

"Unfortunately, the demands of the game here mean that I cannot get the time I need, which is something I truly regret."

Schmeichel has been troubled by a back injury this season, a problem which kept him out of two Premiership matches last month and led to doubts about his future at Old Trafford. He has also been guilty of some costly recent errors, notably his mistake in the last minute of his side's Champions' League game against Bayern Munich in September, which allowed the Germans to equalise and cost United two points.

Schmeichel said he still intended to play international football. "If I have time to prepare myself between games then I can put more years on my career," he said. "That will be good because I can't imagine myself not playing for my country." Despite speculation he will move to either Marseilles or Monaco in France in time for the start of next season, the player insisted he has yet to decide on his future.

"It is important that I am now allowed to concentrate totally on playing for United," he said. "I have had a fantastic career with United and I owe it to the club, players and fans to do everything I can to finish on a successful note."

Ferguson said: "Peter Schmeichel has been a major player in the success achieved by Manchester United over the past eight years. He has been a model professional who has inspired and influenced everyone with Manchester United. It is his professional attitude that has led him to make this decision and, whilst I know it has been difficult for Peter to make, I respect and fully support him."

Schmeichel's exit from Old Trafford will further weaken the link with the United sides of the early 90s and will leave Denis Irwin and the 24-year-old Ryan Giggs as the team's most experienced players.

The Dane's greatness, page 30



Peter Schmeichel, with Alex Ferguson (right) and Martin Edwards yesterday, announces he will be leaving Manchester United at the end of the season

Reuters

'I shout, I have a big mouth. But I get it back, too'

THE SAYINGS OF SCHMEICHEL

I would beat them 10-0. I am part of the greatest United side of all time. We probably play at twice the speed they did in 1968.

Three days later:
I have been embarrassed in front of people I respect, like Bobby Charlton and Brian Kidd. It's been a rotten few days for me.

If we played the 1968 Manchester United team, we

People see me as a big loud character and it suits me that way because in my private life I am completely different; there is nothing of interest in my private world.

I play a bit on the piano before every game - anything from Billy Joel to classical.

When I shout at defenders it's just frustration coming out. They know and I know it's not a personal thing. I shout, I have a big mouth. But I get it back, too.

I want to stop while there is still petrol in the tank. I don't want to be kicked out.

When I stop playing I have this dream of actually seeing all the places I have visited as a sportsman.

You never get tired of winning the Premiership, of going to the FA Cup final, of going for the European Cup.

I have never once thought that my career would have been better if I had moved.

I have been amazed by the hatred shown by some of the opposing fans towards Manchester United. I have gone home from games sometimes and wondered why I bothered. We have been kicked when trying to get on the coach and I have lost count of how many times I have been spat at.

Boks pick Smith to pound Welsh

RUGBY UNION

By CHRIS HEWETT
in a generation, would once again start a major international occasion on the bench.

The theory that Mallett might involve Skinstad from the outset by pushing Andre Venter into the second row and dropping Mark Andrews, his most experienced forward, remains on the back-burner.

Andrews, hardly at his best this season but a formidable proposition nonetheless, will win a record 50th cap at Wembley and clearly plans to extend that priceless collection to 53 by the end of the Grand Slam tour.

"I feel so proud every time I pull on the Springbok shirt that I never want anyone to take it away from me," he said yesterday.

"I want my name to become synonymous with the No 5 jersey but I'm quite aware that unless I produce the big performances, someone will revere me off."

Along with the great Wallaby, John Eales, a fully motivated Andrews is probably the most potent lock forward in world rugby. Thanks to a sharp volley of criticism back home, he suddenly seems more motivated than at any stage in his career.

Mallett and his countrymen

won a small but satisfying victory yesterday when Jason

White, the Glasgow Caledonians flanker, received a 16-week ban for stamping on the head of Braam van Straaten

during Tuesday night's tour opener at Firthill. The Scotland Under-21 captain so enraged the Springbok coach, not to mention Van Straaten, with his illegal foulwork that the visitors cited him within minutes of the final whistle. White will not play again until 2 March.

The Welsh, meanwhile, left for London yesterday without their No 8, Scott Quinnell, who broke ranks to join his wife Nicola in her hour of maternal need.

Steele Quinnell arrived to tip the scales at 8lb 8oz during the afternoon - a happy event made all the merrier by his exquisite timing, which forced a postponement of Quinnell's appeal into a 14-day suspension and, by extension, cleared the way for his appearance in tomorrow's Test.

Quinnell was singled out by Andrews as a serious threat to the Springboks' 14-Test unbeaten run. "Unless we subdue him early, he'll make us pay the price," predicted the line-out specialist from Natal.

"Scott has the ability to put his teammates on the front foot and if he does that tomorrow, we'll be the ones defending for our lives."

Dean Ryan, who led Newcastle to the Premiership title last season, has surgery on Monday on a disc in his neck and will miss three months of

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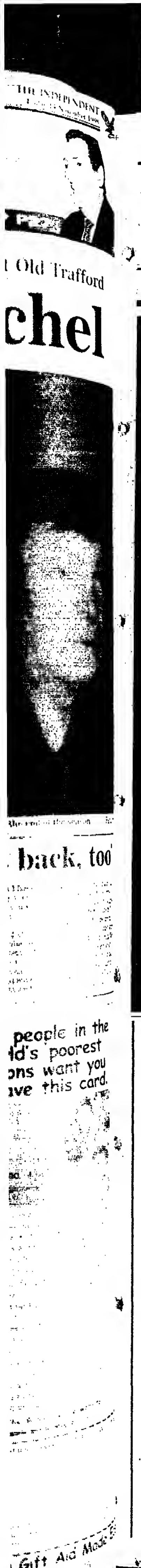
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APR 10 1998

FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



EXCLUSIVE

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP



**The Sun says: 'Hands off our gays'.
Then it says: 'Is there a gay mafia?'
Is David Yelland the most volatile
tabloid editor in Britain?
We think you should be told**



BY DONALD MACINTYRE

The famous slogan is still there on the door to the newsroom: "Walk tall. You are now entering Sun country." And here on a leather and chrome chair in a relatively modest side office sits the man in charge. In this month's list of the 300 most powerful men in Britain he only ranks 73rd – "only" because many would put David Yelland, for five months editor of the country's biggest selling newspaper, a lot higher than that. And he works, of course, for the list's No 2 – Rupert Murdoch.

For a man that powerful, let it be said, Yelland is youthful, friendly, quiet, thoughtful-seeming, about as far removed from the bawling kind of tabloid editor as you could imagine. But it's been another big week in the roller-coaster life of the paper since he took over. A fortnight ago, *The Sun* appeared to break new liberal ground with a sympathetic editorial after the "outing" of Peter Mandelson by Matthew Parris on BBC television.

Then this week or Monday, in the wake of what many people in the Labour Party and beyond regard as the indefensible intrusion into the private life of the Agriculture Minister Nick Brown, *The Sun* produced a front-page editorial questioning – without a shred of evidence – whether there was a "gay mafia" running Britain – together with some merciless and – though Yelland does not accept the charge – homophobic mockery of Mr Brown as he tried to go about his business as a minister.

Let's start, however, with the story of the day. In the midst of all this, Matthew Parris is sacked from his column in *The Sun*, and the paper's editorial announces that it will not out gays – unless "we believe it can be defended on the grounds of overwhelming public interest".

So what's going on? Well, says Yelland, the decision to part with Parris was taken during a think tank in Dublin on the paper's development. "I have a great deal of respect for Matthew especially what he does for *The Times*. I don't think he does his best stuff for *The Sun*. Yes, the *Newsnight* episode was a factor as he had told Parris. But 'He's taken that to mean that Peter Mandelson put pressure on us.' Mandelson did not even know about it, let alone press for Parris's departure.

But how on earth does that high-minded approach square with the coverage of Nick Brown, outed by its sister paper the *News of the World*? "I think you're confusing lots of issues here. There's a difference between outing people, which requires invading people's privacy and telling the entire world that somebody is homosexual when they don't want it to be known, which we'll no longer do. And there's a difference between that and ... and ... getting the debate going. That's what we do. That's what I see my job as doing, sometimes in a very controversial way ... My job is basically to cause the maximum controversy without actually ruining people's lives."

Though he won't discuss it, Yelland's view appears to be that neither he nor *The Sun* who carried the original revelation about Nick Brown – and according to some Sun sources would not have done. And that they had tapes from the young man who had had a relationship with Mr Brown and easily could have run a story – indeed certainly as he tried to go about his business as a minister.

Yelland rejects any suggestion that his paper's policy towards gay sexuality has lurched from one extreme to another. "I'm not saying that all our readers absolutely love homosexuals ..." but presumably quite a lot of Sun readers actually are gay? "Of course, we've got 10 million readers. The days when people discrimi-

nate openly or even privately against gays are passing. Whether it's passed yet is a question mark. *The Sun* has to be ahead of the curve party because that's our job, it's the way we've always been seen, but partly because we can affect the debate."

But hang on. Are suggestions of a "gay mafia" "ahead of the curve"? I put it to Yelland that with some experience of covering British politics I have never noticed the slightest evidence that gay politicians especially club together – much less plot with each other – any more than anyone else. "We're not just talking about the Cabinet. We're talking about the higher echelons of society." The elite, he argues know that there are gay people in powerful positions. "But our readers don't; even *Independent* readers don't. Our argument is that we should get rid of all this prejudice and people should feel free to be gay and the whole thing would go away."

"The fact is people do get hired and promoted in the higher echelons of British society because of their friends, because they're part of this small world, and the gay world is a part of that." Ho hum, this is less than convincing. But Yelland will not expand on this. "I can't defend my position on the gay mafia without outing people."

Although Yelland doesn't believe in outing people he does believe that prominent homosexuals are sensible to out themselves – including newspaper editors. "The first thing is if I was gay I hope I would have the courage to say so, because if a national newspaper editor were gay that would probably help move that debate forward. Some people in prominent positions are doing a disservice to their community by staying in the closet."

Understandably Yelland doesn't want the interview dominated by the gay issue. Plenty else has been happening. For one thing the paper has just sacked Geoffrey Boycott

Continued on page 8

SUTTER HOME

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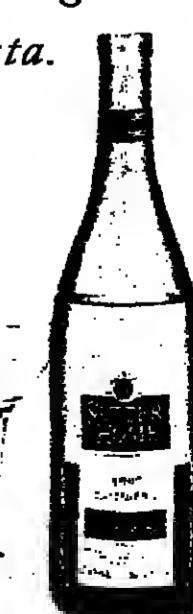
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Perfect with sesame
scallops on angel
hair pasta.



SUTTER HOME

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CHARDONNAY

*
Perfect without sesame
scallops on angel
hair pasta.



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SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES.
They don't need food to make sense.

Lessons of war

Sir: As one who lost three great uncles, who were all brothers, to the First World War, I was struck by the irony of today's (12 November) front-page of *The Independent*.

Alas Peter Macdiarmid's beautifully shot photograph of the Queen marking Armistice Day in Belgium, we read David Usborne's report that the United States and Britain are set to lead a punitive military strike against Iraq.

We will remember them?

Plainly not.
GEOFF BAKER
All Cannings, Wiltshire

Sir: In the war of words over the First World War the underlying moral issue, the problem of international terrorism, is easy to overlook.

Germany's original claim was that "no one had the right to stay the arm of Austria" in punishing the Serbian terrorism at Sarajevo. On this view, the right of victims to punish terrorists overrode the rights of national sovereignty. On the view of the British, who went to war in defence of Belgian sovereignty, these German claims destroyed the whole idea of sovereignty and of fidelity to treaties: not even for the punishment of terrorism should something so important be destroyed.

People on both sides believed that by defending their country they defended a principle of the highest moral importance. For this we should honour them all, British and German alike. They died in defence of conflicting moral principles which cannot both be right but which are both persuasive. The decision between the two principles was and is extremely difficult. People at once began to flinch from discussing it, lest each should see that the other side had a point. The discussion was displaced to general condemnation of British commercialism or German militarism.

But in recent years the original question has become lively again. President Reagan's address to terrorists - "You can run but you can't hide" - gave the German moral position of 1914 a new lease of life.

MARTIN HUGHES
Department of Philosophy
University of Durham

Sir: Niall Ferguson says we should question the assumption that the fallen in the First World War died for a good reason ("Do today's public rituals hinder our understanding of war?", 11 September). What does he mean? That there was no good reason for the war, or that they had no reason for soldiering?

My experience as an infantry platoon commander in the Second World War was that men don't think like that in battle. Some are frightened of being shot for cowardice; some don't want to let their mates down; some are tired of being harassed by the machine-guns they are attacking; some are good professional soldiers; some are sadists; some run away. KEN CLARK Bedford

Sir: It is not difficult to understand why there were so many recruits in 1914. Young men have always been willing to go to war because they are looking for adventure and think they are immortal. Facts known and understood by wicked and cynical leaders in every generation when looking for people to fight their battles for them. Perhaps the first generation to say "no" in significant numbers was the Sixties generation of American young men who burnt their draft cards. The Rev NEIL DAWSON London SW1

Sir: The execution of 306 soldiers for fabricated charges in the First World War is one of the greatest unresolved injustices this century. The injustice is exceeded only by successive governments' refusal to grant posthumous pardons.

Most of those executed were volunteers, vulnerable teenagers

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Hibernating Houses No 5: Book restorers at Blickling Hall, in Norfolk, wear masks when mould has attacked the volumes

Brian Harris

shot for alleged cowardice and desertion. In fact most were suffering shell shock, which we now recognise as post-traumatic stress disorder. The motive for the executions was to instil fear.

A moment's thought reveals the real reason why no pardon is forthcoming: the likelihood of considerable compensation claims for unlawful killing and, more importantly, posthumous indictment of senior military figures for war crimes.

Nothing can be achieved by perpetuating the injustice; in this week of remembrance, grant pardons so healing and forgiveness can begin.

TIM FIELD
Harwell, Oxfordshire

Sir: Roy Hattersley's piece about the poets of the First World War smacks too much of trendy revisionism ("There was no poetry for Uncle Herbert", 11 November).

Consider the tale of Hattersley's Uncle Herbert: a decent man, taken from civilised surroundings, trained to be a killer, then sent to a hell on earth. This happened to millions of others throughout Europe. Such a tragedy merits its own canon of verse.

Why attack the writing of these poems? They represent an attempt (in an age when there was no "counselling") to derive some meaning from the wasteful obscenity of the war. It was an attempt to try and claw something back for humanity.

If all those men had been killed

for nothing more than a tract of land, then at least poetry could transform them from ordinary Uncle Herbarts to the tragic heroes they were. Can Roy Hattersley not accord them due respect for having been there?

ALUN WILLIAMS
Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Anglesey

Sir: Poetry in general, and Wilfred Owen in particular, does not seek to ennoble or give grace to war, as Roy Hattersley says. One need only turn to "Dulce et Decorum Est" by Owen. It is about a gas

attack casualty: "If ... you too could ... watch the white eyes writhing in his face... If you could hear ... the blood come gurgling from the froth-corrupted lungs..."

Forget the poetry? No, Mr Hattersley. Read the poetry. It is one of the few ways left for our generation to understand the suffering of Uncle Herbert.

STEPHEN TILL
Alton, Hampshire

Sir: I am surprised at Roy Hattersley's easy dismissal of *Journey's End*.

The play presents a view of the First World War the psychological realism of which confirms and supports that of Hattersley's uncle. If Sheriff gives a romantic gloss to the picture of trench life, he does so only to show the desperation of men for whom, as Stanhope explains, that very romance was an attempt "to forget" the horror just a few steps from the dugout.

If Mr Hattersley is serious in his suggestion that we should forget the writings of those who - like Sheriff - served in the First World War, simply on the grounds that they were educated men who could spell, then he should consider the purpose of his own column, which moved me nearly as much as did my pupils' performance of *Journey's End* last week.

ALEX WENT
Head of Drama
Shrewsbury School

Sir: The solution to the problem of "torturing" the Prince of Wales (David Aaronovitch, 12 November) is simple. He can abdicate - it's been done - and we can buy a hospital a year from the money saved.

G CUTLER
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire

Sir: So George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, believes that "what people do in their private lives, as long as it

Eco-criminals

Sir: Security arrangements are of course a matter for the police, but if a new unit targeting "green" protesters is to be formed, there is good reason (report, 7 November).

Despite Ken Livingstone's gib tone (letter, 11 November), hunt saboteurs frequently break the criminal law, with seven convictions in the last four weeks alone. More seriously, the three most extreme animal rights activists convicted this decade - jailed for a total of 38 years for crimes such as possessing explosives, attempted arson and criminal damage - began their involvement in the "animal rights" campaign as hunt saboteurs.

So while hunt sabotage itself may not merit the attentions of MI5 or Special Branch, some of its practitioners do.

PAUL LATHAM
Countryside Alliance
London SE11

To Hull and back

Sir: Your story on Hull ("Spin doctors go to Hull and back to give city a brand new image", 10 November) really was a gem. Gary Finn tells us that "councillors, business leaders and a team of image consultants arrived in the Big Apple ... hoping to learn a few lessons on how to dispel widely held myths of poverty, depression and crime."

IN BRIEF

doesn't affect others, is a matter for them" ("Brown's gay? So what?", 9 November).

Oh yeah? What about the gay forces personnel driven from their careers, solely to indulge the hang-ups of homophobes they had to serve with or under?

JAMES SCOTT
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Whoever thought up 1 January 2000 for celebration, a year early, of the millennium was not so daft after all ("Pubs offered licence to party like it's 1999", 10 November). With boozing unlimited and everyone pleyed, no one will notice, perhaps for weeks, that the computers have failed and everything has stopped. No riots, nothing but a big, contented purr.

GRAHAM HOLDEN
Budleigh Salterton, Devon

Myths eh?

Hull is ranked as the 26th most deprived local authority area in England. The Breadline Britain Index estimates that 29 per cent of households in Hull live in poverty (compared with 19 per cent nationally).

Residents of Hull have amongst the lowest wage rates in the country (364 out of 366 local authority areas). Hull has twice the national average of incidents of burglary (309 recorded instances per 10,000 population compared to 136 nationally). Hull City Council has a list of children in care which is three times the national average.

But let Hull residents not despair: Help is at hand. The Hull City Vision quango has gone to see New York and the brand consultant Wolff Olins has formulated a "two-decade image enhancement programme".

Images can only get better

PATRICIA KAYS
Hull

Sir: I wonder what part of Hull the image consultants were looking at when they described it as a "miserable place". I've lived in some miserable places, and Hull is not one of them.

Perhaps instead of going to New York, these consultants should have read a recent edition of *The New York Times*, in which L.J. Davis raved about Hull, describing it as "a very matey kind of town" and "one of the friendliest of dumber towns".

The key factor is not the facilities, nor the teachers. Nor is it the pupils - in small independents entry is usually determined by ability to pay and, as someone once remarked, "there are plenty of dumber in Volvo-land".

The key factor is the parents. They look for a disciplined environment where their children will be safe and happy; they monitor their children's progress day-to-day; they demand that homework is set and marked; they complain about poor teachers and object to their child sharing a class with disruptive pupils. If they are not satisfied, they can simply walk away, taking their fees with them - which keeps the headmaster on his toes.

Education is a cumulative, water-on-a-stone business. In the independent sector, no time is wasted and, over 11 years of compulsory schooling, this is what makes the difference.

ANN CHALMERS
Cardiff

English cities". He was ecstatic about the beer in Hull - "the finest glass of beer I have ever tasted in my life" - and appreciated the authenticity and culture of the city.

Hull is a super place to live. Yes, it has its black spots, but tell me a city that doesn't. If this is misery, I'll continue to enjoy it.

AVRIL TAYLOR
Hull

Sir: While the relief of the debt burden on the flood-devastated countries would clearly be beneficial, it could be made even more so.

Sadly the human rights record of the Central American region is amongst the worst. It would help rebuild the societies of these countries as well as their economy if the relief of debt was made conditional upon the introduction of effective human rights legislation and institutions.

IVOR ROWLANDS
Frodsham, Cheshire

Angolan impasse

Sir: Your article on the death of several workers at a diamond mine in North-east Angola (report, 11 November) fails to put the deteriorating situation in the context of the rebel movement Unita's continued refusal to comply with an internationally-backed peace agreement.

In 1992 the MPLA, which has been in power for over two decades, won the first multi-party elections - which were deemed free and fair by the United Nations. It was Unita that refused to accept these results and returned to war.

The 1994 peace deal was designed to bring Unita into government in return for the movement's disarmament and demobilisation. Four Unita members sit in the Cabinet. Seventy Unita members sit in the country's parliament. Yet its leader, Jonas Savimbi, continues to pursue his preferred military option.

As the UN Security Council has stated, "the primary cause of the crisis in Angola and of the current impasse in the peace process is the failure by the leadership of Unita to comply with its obligations".

JOHN HUGHES
Angola Peace Monitor
London N1

Shirt-tail protest

Sir: Whatever happened to shirt tails, asks Mr James of Swansea (letter, 10 November). Has he really not noticed? They are all hanging outside the trousers of Welsh schoolboys, in sensible protest (I assume) against the drab and dreary school uniforms they are inexplicably obliged to wear.

JAN MORRIS
Llanystumdy, Gwynedd

The citizens were queuing up to buy burgers to get their Snappy figures, going outside and throwing their hamburgers in the litter bins untouched before going home to enjoy their Snappies. Bins were overflowing with uneaten hamburgers outside every Big Mac dispensary, it seems...

Actually that is one item you might improve on. You could visualise the painful meeting at which the man responsible for the Snappy idea which had so powerfully back-fired tried to defend himself to the bigwigs at McDonald's...

A reader writes: I would stop there if I were you. McDonald's lawyers are very quick on the draw.

Miles Kington writes: Yes. Perhaps you're right.

Warning: today's column contains utterly tasteless items

YESTERDAY I put forward the theory that a humorous writer would be ill-advised to try to squeeze humour out of an already humorous news item. He would be better advised simply to reprint the item and not try to improve on it.

As evidence of this, I now bring you the whole of an item about the great Evel Knievel, the man who soared across space on motor bicycles. This is an item which found on the back page of the *International Herald Tribune* on Friday last week.

"In the world of Evel Knievel, this motorcycle mishap was nothing much. The 50-year-old daredevil suffered a minor scrape in Clearwater, Florida, when his parked bike toppled over pinioning him beneath it. He was sitting on it with the kickstand down. Neighbours

heard him yell for help, freed him and summoned paramedics."

That's it. Evel Knievel fell off his bike and couldn't get up without medical help. That's all you need to know.

How can you improve on it?

Nor does one need to say anything about the postman in my home town, Wrexham, who was trapped in the post box. Unlike the Knievel story, this was widely reported, but in case you were on Clapham Common at the time and saw it, a Welsh postman got trapped inside a very large postbox when the door blew shut. The first anyone knew about it was when an old age pensioner went to post a letter and a hand came out of the slot to take it.

I have to say that I find that story a bit smelly. But why spoil a good story? After all, I have never doubt-

MILES
KINGTON

The most joyful recent story about McDonald's catering outlets came from Hong Kong...

which are really true also sound dodgy. Like the one about Torquay United last Saturday. It was re-

ported in the *Telegraph*, and no doubt elsewhere, that the players in the Torquay United Football League team had been told not to practise shooting at goal when they came out to warm up before a match. Reason? Too many of their shots were missing the goal and flying into the crowd, and insurance was insufficient to cover a bad injury to a spectator. If Evelyn Waugh had put that into a novel, you wouldn't believe him...

But my favourite recent news item concerns McDonald's hamburgers. I love collecting items which show McDonald's in a bad light, because I think they serve very boring mass-produced food and because they take themselves and their hideous red and yellow so-called restaurants so very seriously. I have here a cutting from this

paper from last summer headed "McDonald's World Cup win has French seething", detailing the fury of French restaurateurs over the choice of McDonald's as the official restaurant of the World Cup, which would be the nominal Miller Lite as the official beer of the World Cup in England.

It was the big money offer of the burger bar which made the difference, it seemed. "We knew money had no smell," said the furious chef. "Now we know it has no taste either."

The most recent joyful story about McDonald's catering outlets (better name than "restaurant", surely) came from Hong Kong, where, we are told, the populace had fallen in love with the Snappy figures being given away with Big Macs.

J. V. 150

Debt-stricken

Send the bombers to Iraq, but lift sanctions as well

THE TRAGEDY of modern Iraq has reached another moment of false catharsis. Like all tragedies its dominant theme is that of two sides who fail to understand one another. Saddam Hussein, by no means a simple or stupid villain, has again miscalculated the West's reaction to his posturing. Meanwhile, the West has again misunderstood the reaction of the Arab peoples to its shows of force against him. If the missiles begin to rain down on Iraq – and we are now in the transition from "if" to "when" – Iraqi nationalism will be strengthened, however misguided it is. Anti-Western sentiment in the wider Arab world will provide more raw material in the form of ideology and martyrs for the extremists and terrorists.

It is possible that Iraq's military leaders, realising that an attack really is imminent, will try to topple Saddam. Possible, but unlikely. Unlikely still that they would succeed. Several attempts have been made in recent years, and none have come close, as far as we know. Unlikely, too, is the idea that a "surgical strike" from the air could weaken Saddam's capacity to make weapons of mass destruction. The very reason we have reached this present crisis is because the UN inspectors do not know where the weapon-making installations are – or were before they were moved. Furthermore, air strikes are likely to kill civilians, and Saddam is not above trying to ensure that they do.

Yet what is the alternative? The rule of international law may be a concept that is infused with Western cultural assumptions, but it is not an anti-Arab conspiracy. It is a truth of universal application that a ruthless dictator with a proven desire to make and use chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, is a danger to his own people, his neighbours, and the world. It is the moral duty of the United Nations and all its members to try to contain that danger. It is Britain's moral responsibility, too, despite the Foreign Secretary's dispiriting attempt this week to claim that he never used the phrase "ethical foreign policy". The fact that many of the consequences of military action are likely to be negative, or at best neutral, is not, in the end, an argument against it. UN resolutions have to be backed up, ultimately, by the threat of force, which in turn must prove itself to be real.

However reluctantly, then, the forces of the United States should strike Iraqi military targets if Saddam does not agree in the next few days to abide by his agreement with Kofi Annan the UN secretary-general. The governments of Europe should support this action, and it is notable that France has not, this time round, voiced its usual objections. The Americans have prepared the ground for this confrontation more carefully than in February, with what *Newsweek* called President Clinton's "rope-a-dope diplomacy", making absolutely sure that

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Saddam put himself in the wrong, and also ensuring a lead role for the UN with at least tacit acquiescence from other Arab governments.

But missiles and bombs are unlikely to provide any lasting purging of international frustrations with our inability to remove Saddam. In the long run, he is more likely to be undermined if the root causes of Iraqi and Arab grievance against the West are tackled, which means that the sanctions on Iraq should go.

It may seem quite bizarre to propose the lifting of sanctions at the same time as advocating the use of military force, but that strategy offers the best hope in the long term of weakening Saddam's hold on power. Sanctions have not worked. Their effect has been to provide the Iraqi leader with spurious propaganda – he is allowed to sell oil for food and medicine and yet chooses not to do so – and to keep his people poor and dependent on the state.

Give the Iraqi people the carrot of trade and Saddam the stick of air strikes.

A small, green step for the good of everybody

THIS WEEK the environment ministers' caravan moved on from Rio, via New York and Kyoto, to Buenos Aires. The great Save the World from Global Warming tour has been to more summits than Chris Bonington. Progress is slow, but that is the way of diplomacy and this is a problem that can be tackled only by concerted action by all countries.

People will not use less energy if they are simply asked politely to do so. Behaviour will change if the price of energy changes. That requires international agreement to impose higher taxes on fossil fuels. The crucial breakthrough was at Kyoto, when the US agreed to legally binding targets. Green purists have attacked the idea that the US should be allowed to buy the right to emit carbon dioxide from Russia, but this establishes a vital second principle: that saving the environment should be accompanied by transfers from rich to poor nations.

All power to John Prescott's elbow as he tries to put these principles into practice in Argentina. Yesterday's announcement that the US would sign the Kyoto agreement was largely symbolic as it has yet to get through the gas-guzzling Senate. But it was another small step along the mountain range of green summits.

Absolutely critical

THE TROUBLE with critics is that they are so, well, critical. Never satisfied. And they have no respect for actors. Are Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman not human? If we prick them, do they not bleed? Actor Robert Lindsay says no one will want to act if they get such mauulings. So lay off. This observation has, of course, nothing to do with one critic's comparison of Mr Lindsay's Richard III to "Ken Dodd playing the Palladium". Nothing at all.

First steps on a long journey to an unknown destination

DON'T HOLD your breath. The joint statement by Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown on their determination to reshape the political map and challenge the "destructive tribalism that can afflict British politics" is a unique and, indeed, remarkable document. It may even prove to be a historical one. But the boldness of the two leaders continues to be in the ends they seek.

We are still in the opening phase of a very long game. For this is a project in which both leaders are taking immense risks and are doing so without much support from some of their closest colleagues. Indeed, there have been times over the past 48 hours when Mr Ashdown feared he could lose the leadership over this latest initiative. Some of the allies he trusts most advised him against the move. Much of his party, instead of rubbing its hands in glee at the prospect of more power, is deeply worried. Some of them are walking around Westminster with heads held low as if they have just had their seats taken away from them.

At a meeting of his senior MPs yesterday, it was agreed that any extension of the Lib/Lab Cabinet committee's remit must be "tightly controlled". The mood was hardly celebratory. As one of the Ashdown entourage observed, "It's been a week of hard hats and flak jackets". An even bumpier ride is anticipated by the Ashdown camp when the party's Federal Executive meets on Monday.

Blair, too, is moving alone. Not even his ultra-loyal Press Secretary, Alastair Campbell, is an enthusiast about his leader's flirtations with the Liberal

Democrats. The negative views of his most senior cabinet ministers are well known. I have also spoken to several New Labour MPs from the 1997 intake and detected no great enthusiasm amongst some of them. "The Liberal Democrats seem irrelevant" was the closest one came to endorsing the strategy. Imagine the uproar if Ashdown and one or two Lib Dems had been appointed to the Cabinet, as many speculated would have happened by now.

Such a development always struck me as a fantasy at such an early stage. Now we know just how big and premature a fantasy it has been. Given the reaction to widening the remit of a cabinet committee there would have been a mutiny in the ranks of the Liberal Democrats if Mr Ashdown had suddenly become Secretary of State for Defence.

What we are witnessing is a very long-term project of uncertain outcome. Parties are fragile beasts and cannot be remade overnight. Relations between parties are equally sensitive. Consider how long it has taken to reach the current situation.

When Blair became Labour leader in July 1994 there was an eruption of articles predicting a dramatic realignment on the centre left. They were justified in the sense that privately and, indeed, publicly, Blair was quite open about his objectives.

In a candid Fabian lecture in 1995, he spoke of the need to repair the division on the centre left. The view is echoed in this week's joint declaration which states as its aim "the ascendancy of progressive politics in



STEVE RICHARDS

Both Blair and Ashdown are leaders who don't take risks unless they are fairly sure they can pull them off

Britain". Here we go again. The language is of aims and objectives. They have remained constant and dramatic. But let us look at what has actually happened in the four and a half years since Blair became leader.

Liberal Democrat MPs continue to sit on the opposition benches, deeply ambivalent about their leader's strategy. The key pledge of Blair's, to hold a referendum in the first term, will probably not be met. Blair, himself, has still to reveal whether or not he supports electoral reform. Most of his cabinet is opposed. That is not to say that two leaders have not made bold, significant strides. They both have.

With underestimating subtlety Ashdown moved his tribal party (his activists are more tribal than Blair's) away from their perverse attachment to "equidistance" between Labour and the Conservatives. Without needing the support of the Lib Dems in the Commons, Mr Blair has set up a cabinet committee and backed it for next summer's Euro elections. Much progress there has been, but it is of a slow and subtle nature, the opposite of the apocalyptic language which often accompanies talk of the Blair/Ashdown relationship.

So what will happen now? Over the next few weeks there will be much discontent, especially amongst the Liberal Democrats. But do Ashdown's internal opponents really want to reject a whiff of power for the luxury of impotent opposition? Anyway, a new kind of politics will unfold. However loud the protests within either of the parties,

In Scotland the voting system will almost certainly deliver a hung parliament next summer in which parties will be forced to work together. A forgotten element of the Cook/Maclean proposals for the House of Lords is that a reformed second chamber should reflect the votes cast at a general election. It remains likely that parties will have to co-operate more fully in the Lords whenever the leap to wholesale reform is made.

Politics is changing, but both Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown are leaders who do not take risks unless they are fairly sure they can pull them off. They are right to try for the rewards that come with power. Overnight after the 1997 election, Labour MPs should pause and reflect on what happened in the Eighties. Margaret Thatcher's dominance was the product of an informal anti-Labour alliance. For the SDP,

especially under the leadership of David Owen, the worst outcome would have been the election of a Foot or Kinck government. Labour was assaulted on two fronts, leaving the ground clear for Thatcher.

As long as Labour and the Liberal Democrats are co-operating, the Conservatives face the same doomed isolation that afflicted Labour for 18 years. I write of the two parties "co-operating". It is a vague notion but for now it will have to do. Possibly the election after next will be fought under a more proportional system. That depends on a referendum being won in the meantime. If that happens, in eight years' time, there may be a more formal coalition of the centre left. There are lots of "ifs" and "maybes" in this project.

Yesterday I was talking at Westminster with a senior Liberal Democrat who had reservations about the timing of the latest initiative. Briefly Roy Hattersley joined us and greeted the MP by observing mischievously that they should shake hands "now we're both members of the same party". The great wordsmith will no doubt produce 10 articles on this theme over the next 24 hours, but he is leaping miles ahead.

There will be no merger. For many years there will be no formal coalition. It is still possible that the bold experiment implodes before very long. More likely, Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown are reflecting the political mood as well as shaping it. But they are on a journey which has only just begun.

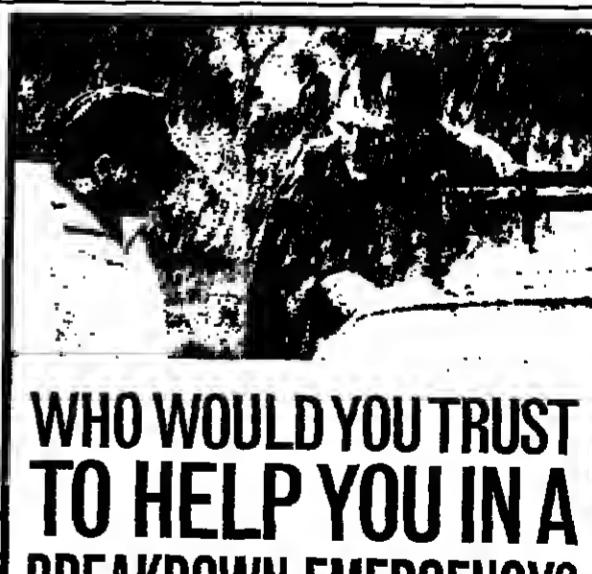
Neither of these leaders knows where this journey will end.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was offered another job at the club but I didn't want to bang around as a ghost on the wall."
Roy Evans, former Liverpool FC manager

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Don't wait for the Last Judgement. It takes place every day."
Albert Camus, French writer



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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Opinion on the threat of US military action against Saddam Hussein

THE UNITED States bombing campaign should not be symbolic, but be designed to destroy as much of Saddam Hussein's total surveillance and relinquishing of power; his pledge to disarm. His failure after all these years to honor that pledge gives the United Nations every right to reconsider its merciful ceasefire terms. *The Washington Post, US*

THIS GAME of cat and mouse must end. It has gone on too long and the only victim is the

feasted Iraq's army, the United States chose to accept, in place of Saddam Hussein's total surveillance and relinquishing of power; his pledge to disarm. His failure after all these years to honor that pledge gives the United Nations every right to reconsider its merciful ceasefire terms. *The Washington Post, US*

Iraqi people, strangled for seven years by sanctions. But how to stop it? The Pentagon plans successive strikes on military sites: the objective is to weaken the regime of the dictator with the aim of eventually taking it apart, while keeping civilian casualties to a minimum. For if we are really concerned for the good of Iraq and keen to put an end to this

interminable crisis, we must put an end to Hussein. It is probable, therefore, that the first strike will be nothing more than the prelude to what will be a long offensive. *Le Figaro, France*

SADDAM'S CURRENT strategy takes full advantage of Clinton's expected decision to wage limited air war with its modest compliance aim. His ultimate purpose is to be able to credibly bluff the West into letting

him dominate his part of the world. In 2002, he moves on Saudi Arabia; he threatens to invade Iraq; Saddam announces he is ready to risk national suicide by firing a nuclear missile at us. The US has no missile defense. Does a prudent President let him grab those oil fields, or will Clinton's successor be forced to gamble a US city on the hope that a homicidal maniac is only bluffing? *The New York Times, US*

PANDORA

JEREMY PAXMAN recently hosted the video-taping of the "Broadsheet vs Tabloids" special episode of *University Challenge*, due to be broadcast over Christmas. Representing the "Broads" were Boris Johnson, Richard Ingrams, Libby Purves and Decca Aitkenhead, while the "Tabs" fielded Anna Leslie, Peter Hitchens, Jane Moore and Tony Parsons. After the contest, all the hacks were sworn to secrecy about the final outcome. However, Pandora quickly learned the result. Without wishing to spoil the suspense for future viewers of this epic battle of brains, it is probable the outcome would have been happier for the chattering classes had a representative from the nation's most intelligent and informed newspaper (the one you are holding in your hands) been among the contestants.

THE LINK between the distinguished Garrick Club and the late rock singer Sonny Bono, former husband of Cher and later a Congressman from Palm Springs, is not immediately apparent. However, all eyes in the club have been on the Sonny Bono Copyright Extension Term Act for the past months as it has wended its way through the US Congress. The reason for this rapt attention was that the Disney Corporation's offer of £40m to the Garrick for its share of the rights to AA Milne's Winnie the Pooh was conditional on the passage of Bono's legislation. It stretches copyright protection in the US from 50 to 70 years and, with the Act, Winnie the Pooh would have been in the public domain within a few years. The joyous news is that President Clinton signed the "Bono Bill" into law on 27 October.

ALAS, THE Sunday Times Christmas party has been ditched this year. Demoralised staffers in Wapping are being told this draconian move is part of belt-tightening measures taken by Rupert Murdoch's News International in the face of a possible recession. There is a sneaking suspicion among some ST staff that cancelling the boozy Xmas party had more to do with the socially awkward editor, John Witherspoon's distaste for such gatherings than it did with any lack of Murdoch cash.

INSTEAD OF enlisting the former Mail on Sunday editor, Jonathan Holborow, to help him embarrass the Government, perhaps Tory leader William

Hague should have hired old-school comedian Bobby Davro. At last week's Hospital Doctor of the Year Awards at the Grosvenor House, Davro paused before the major award of the evening. "And now, the moment you have been waiting for, but just to prolong your suffering, a few words from Minister of State for Health Alan Milburn MP."

IN NEXT Tuesday's first episode of BBC2's *Match of Their Day*, the Seventies football star, Rodney Marsh reveals why his career as an England player ended so abruptly in 1973. In the Wembley dressing-room prior to the World Cup qualifier against Wales, the legendary manager Sir Alf Ramsey confronted Marsh. "Tonight is your last chance for England. If you don't work harder tonight, I'm going to pull you off at half-time." Marsh retorted, "Christ, at Manchester City we only get a cup of tea and an orange!" That was Rodney's last match ever in an England shirt.

Pandora wonders if England's current manager, Glen "Holy Joe" Hoddale would have even got the joke.

DUE TO a US television technicians' union, late-night news bulletins on the ABC network are originating out of its London studio, rather than from New York or LA. While the other American networks have settled, ABC is living in hope of bringing the union into line. This has meant feeding its British staff at 4am and, to feed the troops, ABC has turned to a catering firm called Lox, Stock and Bagel. How appropriate that L&B is owned by an American expatriate named Janet Evans, who used to make speeches as a "surrogate" for President Ronald Reagan - hardly a supporter of the American labour movement.

THE HUNT for the Tom Cruise lookalike has received some rather puzzling, even disturbing, mail, but very little in the way of credible information. However, one e-mail from an "M Simon" received yesterday does make some sense. "If the mysterious Tom Cruise lookalike is truly as adept at impersonating that actor as he seems to be, he is certainly a better actor than

Mr Cruise. He should step forward; a film career beckons."

Are you listening, whoever you are?

Mr Cruise

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beckons."

Are you

listening,

whoever you are?

Thompson is a national treasure without a doubt, Margaret Rutherford

Playing away at the ballet



PAT BUTCHER
Like your average football fan, I've had my share of strip shows, blue movies and lap dancing

IT ALL behoves a Wolverhampton Wanderers' supporter to tell a Sunderland fan anything. But, as far as the ballet goes, I'll say just this - stick with it lad! There's a whole world out there you never knew existed, and it's just waiting to ambush your senses.

There was boundless media glee at the news of Sunderland football supporters flocking to the city's Empire Theatre, to see the Birmingham Royal Ballet's version of *Romeo and Juliet*. This was on the strength of Prokofiev's *Dance of the Knights* - from the ballet - having been used as the Sunderland FC theme tune since the opening of their grandiosely named Stadium of Light a year ago.

Media tittering over this is doubtless based on the assumption that the recent middle-class affection for watching football is deemed not to have reached the far north-east. I've always preferred the Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet* myself. But as one who came equally late to ballerina, it just so happens the work which

stretched the back of my appreciative net was... *Romeo and Juliet*. In theory, of the "high" arts - opera, classical music and poetry being the others - ballet should be the most accessible to the sports follower (although Tony Harrison's magnificent poem *V is up there*, as any Leeds supporter will tell you).

After all, ballet dancers are incredibly athletic, far more so than the average midfield dynamo, not to mention the fat boy rolling around the pitch again for Sunderland's Teesside neighbours.

The biggest problem that ballet has posed for the lad fraternity has been those tights. And, I suppose, the gassing. But after recent Parliamentary revelations, even that, thankfully, seems to be OK with the proles nowadays. But if there's anything dedicated to riveting the average football punter to his plush seat at the Empire Theatre, it's a healthy dose of sex.

And that's what did it for me.

I'd seen a couple of versions of *Romeo and Juliet* since my wife, a former dancer, started dragging me to Covent Garden a half dozen years ago.

And, like everyone else, I loved the male corps de ballet in *Adventures in Motion Pictures' Swan Lake* last year. But the full-blown epiphany only came with a *Romeo and Juliet*, or rather, a *Juliet* at the Apollo

in Hammersmith six months ago. In common with the your average footie fan, I've had my share of strip shows, blue movies and lap dancing. It was melted all over him on tiptoes, a swooning, incandescent wail of dripping around the stage in a pheromone haze doubling as a negligee. And all before the interval! I had to take my drink outside, and count the cars crossing Hammersmith Flyover, to get a sufficient grip to venture back in for the second half - I mean, act.

It was, in a word, sublime. Like good sex, it left me truly satisfied, but intrigued, and eager for more. After the match last Saturday (Bristol City 1, Wolves 6, heh! heh!), I went

The

Our real role models are drunks, failures and lunatics



PHILIP HENSHER
The young much prefer an eccentric like Robbie Williams to Lady Jay's approved pantheon

CHILDREN, UNLESS they are revoltingly precocious, loathe being asked the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?", and generally understand pretty quickly that the way to move the question on is just to mutter the conventional answers of "train driver", "footballer" or, like Salvador Dali, "Napoleon". A friend of mine claims that he always used to shut up politely inquires about his future by saying "When I grow up, I want to be the first two bars of Debussy's Suite Bergamasque," which usually had the desired effect. But had as the question is, being told what you ought to aim at, I'm sure, a hundred times worse.

Your eye may have slid over the last-but-three of the Government's idiocies, as mine certainly did. But apparently, a week or two back, the Minister for Women, Lady Jay, started going round saying that what young women needed was positive role models in life to stop them going off the rails into a hell of motherhood, powerlessness, and, no doubt, reading novels in the mornings and eating too many violet creams while doing so.

What they need, in short, even if they hadn't realised it until that moment was a Women's Unit, staffed to the gills with bright-eyed clones of Lady Jay and inspiring models for the young such as, er, the porty teenage idol Billie and the suddenly ubiquitous Ginger Spice. And - this is the fingerprint of Lady Jay, the unmistakable moment when she goes one step too far and lands herself in the mire of her own flighty enthusiasm - the actress Emma Thompson.

Unfortunately, nobody had troubled to ask Ms Thompson whether she wanted to have anything at all to do with anything called a Women's Unit or to be bossed about by Lady Jay, or, indeed, whether she wanted to be anybody's role model.

Thompson is a national treasure without a doubt, Margaret Rutherford

courage les autres. How many of the successful women of today have got where they are by looking at their mothers, doing the washing-up, and thinking, Please God, let me not end up like that?

It shouldn't be underestimated as a means of stimulating people to do their best. I remember, when I worked in the Journal Office of the House of Commons, every day looking at my boss and saying to myself, That's what's lying in store for you if you don't get your finger out.

And I don't think that's unusual.

I've certainly got my own heroes,

but they're an odd, ramshackle bunch,

and, like everyone, I came to them

on my own, and not because anyone told me they were the sort of people

I ought to admire.

Henry Green, a novelist who spent the last 20 years of his life in a drunken stupor, would never be approved by Lady Jay for any kind of list. Others, like Alexander Burnes, the great Afghan administrator, or Marco Pantani the cyclist, are a bit more orthodox, but the point is that they're my heroes, and not ones which the Government has suggested to me. And they are certainly not there for behaving better than most people, but, usually, for behaving rather worse. I was always rather keen on Jarvis Cocker, but he wasn't a hero of mine until he unforgettable Spoke For England by wagging his bum at the appalling Michael Jackson.

One of the nice features of the English has always been the fact that they much prefer heroic failures to more conventional role models. The great national role models tend to be drunks, lunatics, and, rather than the people who discovered DNA or conquered India, a man like Captain Scott, who got to the Pole second and whose expedition ended in disaster. And the young are no different, much preferring an eccentric like Robbie Williams to the squeaky-clean blamless spectacle of Lady Jay's approved pantheon.



Robbie Williams shows the way

UPPA

The Women's Unit; let a photograph of Barbara Cartland in a baseball cap be affixed to the wall of every classroom in the country; let the biographies of the Duchess of York and the novels of Edwina Currie be set for the GCSE in English; let the young, in short, have their laughing stocks. And when they stop laughing, they will, at least, feel relieved to be themselves, and start to find their own role models.

Actually, now I come to think of it, I might have hit on the reason Lady Jay was appointed to head up the Women's Unit in the first place.

Teenagers, as everyone knows,

have a limitless contempt for adults. Rather than work against it by telling them the sort of people they ought to emulate and the sorts of heroes from history that they ought to revere, perhaps the government ought to go with the flow, and propose role models who can be the recipient of boundless amounts of contempt, ridicule and courtesy.

Let the Government hold up Michael Winner as a fine upstanding example of what you might become if you work hard. Let them appoint Tara Palmer-Tomkinson to

the Women's Unit; let a photograph of Barbara Cartland in a baseball cap be affixed to the wall of every classroom in the country; let the biographies of the Duchess of York and the novels of Edwina Currie be set for the GCSE in English; let the young, in short, have their laughing stocks. And when they stop laughing, they will, at least, feel relieved to be themselves, and start to find their own role models.

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Our most urgent and grievous problem continues to be mass unemployment. It leads to emotional distress and the collapse of social structures. It deprives some of hope and fills others with fear. In addition, it is costing the country 17 billion pounds a year. The government is fully aware that one of the main reasons for its election is that it is expected to take effective steps to reduce unemployment.

We are facing up to this challenge. The tax reform we will be starting in the next few days will be the first step. We won't spend another 16 years discussing the need for such reforms or the pros and cons for the interest groups. We will actually carry out the tax reform.

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The New Centre excludes nobody



PODIUM

GERHARD

SCHRÖDER

From a speech setting out policy priorities by the German Chancellor to the Bundestag

the civil-rights movements of

the Sevens and Eighties.

This generation upholds the

tradition of public spirit and

individual courage. They

have grown up rebelling against

authoritarian structures. Now

it is they, and with them the

nation, who are called upon to

form a new political covenant,

to do away with the stagnation

into which the previous

government led our country.

Many of us were involved in

the civil rights movement of

the Sevens and Eighties.

This generation upholds the

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The betrayal of feminism



YVONNE ROBERTS

If Baroness Jay has no wish to be identified with the century's transforming force, who gives a toss?

ONE RESPONSE, of course, would be to turn it into a verb. To say: to rat on the influences that have helped to make you what you are. So when Baroness Margaret Jay, the government's Women's Minister, denies that she is a feminist (sending out a clear signal to aspiring New Labour female MPs, that they should do likewise), you could politely suggest that she has Jayed on her past.

The Baroness has since clarified her position further: "In politics, feminism is seen as negative, complaining about things; it's perceived to be about separateness, putting up a brick wall between men and women. I don't think you have to be negative like that..."

I guess that must have been the kind of negativity that has spawned a thousand and one active self-help groups across the UK and urged change in recruitment practices in any number of professions so that talent isn't ignored just because it happens to be female. Or perhaps it's the negativity which - inspired by the belief that democracy is about representation - campaigned for quotas for women so that over 100 females are now in the Commons? And is that the "separateness" which has fuelled women activists who argue that fatherhood should mean much more than being a wage-earner?

What has really struck home about the views expressed over the past few days, a chorus echoing Baroness Jay, is just their old-fashionedness. Bring out the psychedelic flares and step into my time machine. Feminism is shunned because it's seen as whingeing, man-hating, a training ground for haridans. All quite right too - back in the Sixties and Seventies.

In New York then, Cell 16, one offshoot of the sisterhood, argued with great subtlety that women were essentially good, and men rotten. Pretty clothes, heterosexual sex and lipstick identified you as a collaborator. Well, they didn't come more collaborative than me, aged 20, blinded by false eyelashes and desperate to be deflowered. I didn't agree with Cell 16 and the other "extremists", but their very



Baroness Jay, right, with Clare Short and Margaret Beckett: the opportunity to do something triumphant, feminist or not.

radicalism made me think about the issues they raised.

No matter what the advertisements flogging domesticity and skin creams told us - "She's Engaged! She's Lovely! She uses Pond's!" - there had to be more to life than complete dependency on a man and a complexion like silk. Again, all men might not be rapists, but as research has since confirmed some of the "men" and most distinguished men (eg Arthur Koestler) can and do force themselves violently on women without comeback. Feminism wouldn't have been born again, if we hadn't had those "haridans" to act at the time as midwife.

Forty years ago, a manual, *What Makes Women Buy*, became a huge hit in the USA. It explained that if you wanted to sell to "the weaker sex" you had to realise that, among other issues, "Women's bone structure... overwhelmingly leads her towards more passive interests and an inward life." She also "has a strong tendency to irrational beliefs". I - and Margaret Jay - grew up in that culture, as did Susan J Douglas, author of *Where the Girls Are*.

"Whatever this category 'woman' was," she writes, "I didn't want a part of it. It meant you'd be... ridiculed as dumb yet overbearing, incompetent yet scheming and friv-

olous yet dangerous... It seemed as if we had only two choices: sink or swim."

So mutiny we did. The irony of this week's apostasy is that the reasons to espouse feminism now are far richer and more inclusive. In short, Baroness Jay could have turned her moment of betrayal into something positively triumphant - and very New Labour.

She could have said that feminism is not only alive and well, it's biggest success has been under the present government. For the first time, the so-called politics of the kitchen table is being recognised as a central part of strategy; the man-made divisions between the private family and public areas of work and the economy are being broken down. Tony Blair and co, prefer to call this "holistic government" and "joined-up policy making" and that's fine by me - but feminism is what's printed right through the centre of this particular stick of rock.

Feminism and capitalism have long since joined in unholy matrimony. Women need their own income; employers require labour. What New Labour is beginning to realise is that it doesn't broker a fairer deal between the two - all of society pays a price. In acknowledging this, New Labour isn't pandering to women (their votes, after

all, remain crucial to future victories). It is also heading that the landscape that men inhabit is changing too.

On Monday, the Women's Unit issued a bundle of research on men and women's attitudes to various issues. Its intention was to illustrate the differences. In fact, what strikes most is the growing convergence of views on issues such as health, employment and the economy.

"Women's Issues" are rightly now seen as human issues; the male and female experience, in many areas, is beginning to overlap in a way unknown before.

Women have moved into the male world of work and while 6 million adults are carers, 40 per cent are male. Furthermore, 150,000 lone-parent families are headed by fathers, and house-husbands are a growing minority. The quicker these numbers increase, the faster the speed of change.

So, if much of politics is already being feminised, where's the beef? If the outcomes are moving in the right direction, who cares about the label? If Baroness Jay has no wish to be identified with one of the major transforming forces of this century, if she's defensive and dismissive, who gives a toss so long as we see results? Well, results are precisely the point. While the change

in society has been monumental, the game is still that women work and men still rule. Feminism's endeavour is to maintain vigilance so the game does eventually become fairer.

Contrary to what many seem to believe in the current F-wake, feminism is also dynamic. Its terms and definitions, always vague, continue to adapt and customise. What has a higher priority in the UK - child care for instance - has no priority least in the redistribution of income and the creation of work. Equal in what? In poverty, unemployment, self-destruction?

"The something better" for me, as a feminist, is the creation of a system which allows women and men to make the most of themselves and their children. It means setting aside prejudices about gender to which society still holds dear. It means encouraging self-worth, valuing the role of caring. It means the right to a decent income. And it means honesty about the cultural and biological differences between the sexes, so these differences are used to construct a society which enhances instead of hinders women and men. That's feminism. It might even be New Labour. We'll wait and see.

The feminist wake-up call in the Nineties comes later, when the average girl on the go becomes a mother who still has to earn. Or survive with a family on benefits. (Tougher still if your skin is black or brown.) Graffiti popular in the Seventies read: "Women will never be the equals of men." It was also common to find the following addition: "That's all right. We were hoping for something better."

Equality to me, in the Nineties, is a moronic idea in a society which cries out for radical change, not least in the redistribution of income and the creation of work. Equal in what? In poverty, unemployment, self-destruction?

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There now, would that have been so hard for Baroness Jay to say?

Rui Xavier

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW SIMMIS



The senior adviser to Christian Aid responds to a recent article by Diane Coyle

HYSTERIC OR gasping for breath? Central America's disaster requires a radical rethink on solving the economic problems of poor countries. Far from the hysteria suggested by Diane Coyle, linking aid and debt relief is essential to achieve the central objective of the Government's international development policy.

People die in disasters often because they are poor and have to live in environmentally vulnerable areas, such as coastal regions. Over one billion people live like this, at the whine of storm surges and tidal waves. It is hard to build homes in Nicaragua and Honduras equipped to withstand nature while they pay \$221 million and \$564 million in foreign debt service respectively each year.

The first objective, in preventing future tragedies, is to lift people out of poverty so that, in future, so many don't have to be lifted out of mud and floodwater. To do this the British Government is backing a set of international development targets. These include halving the number of people living on less than £1 per day and the provision of universal primary education by 2015.

Neither foreign investment nor growth under their appalling economic forecasts will generate sufficient resources for the heavily indebted countries to meet the 2015 targets. Christian Aid believes that properly organised debt relief could contribute significantly. To meet health and education targets, Tanzania would need a 100 per cent cut in debt service; the same is true for Malawi, currently excluded from debt relief talks.

The World Bank and the rich creditor nations, including Britain, are all committed to the 2015 targets. The challenge is whether a piece of the new economic architecture can be built that will put a solid roof over everyone's head.

Unheard witnesses of war

FRIDAY BOOK

VETERANS: THE LAST SURVIVORS OF THE GREAT WAR

BY RICHARD VAN EMDEN AND STEVE HUMPHRIES.

LEO COOPER, £16.95

says: "I blanketed out the war and only once spoke about it from 1918 to 1990." The oral history that now emerges has a fresh, creaky immediacy, tends prone to the reworking that attends the repeated retelling of memories. Robert Burns, born 1885, still feels the impact of the Kitchener poster on him as an 18-year-old in Glasgow. "No matter where you went you'd find nearly all the lice gone. The other insects had eaten the lice".

If you left it for a couple of hours... you'd find nearly all the lice gone. The other insects had eaten the lice".

The book's power also comes from reaching parts of First World War testimony that others have not - the memories of women as Home Front or battle-line nurses, as munitions workers, or sheltered as children in Hartlepool by German battle cruisers in December 1914. Other voices conjure up an attack inside a tank: "a thick haze of petrol and gas and cordite fumes - eight men cooped up with no air... a sudden drop was sickening... we were full of bruises".

Or, during a hospital recovery: "The gas began burning its way out of my chest, forcing bits of rib through the skin... an open wound which the doctors had constantly to syringe".

Then there is the surreal encounter of a Tommy PoW with a German officer who asks in the King's English: "Where are you from?" London. "So am I. I was at college there, but they brought me home - now I'm in this lot."

Veterans also confirms a sense of humanity that had its origins in 1914-18, and was not just a product of post-war disillusion. Ninety-year-old Emma Cussons' mother was riddled with shrapnel from the Hartlepool bombardment. But when a Zeppelin was

downed - "and dad said to my mum, 'Come and have a look at this'" - she said: "No. I couldn't. They're somebody's lads aren't they?"

Andrew Downie's memories of a young German prisoner breaks out an intense headache, still tender and raw after 80 years: "Only 18, his hip had been shot away... The fellows were giving him chocolate... There was an atmosphere of love, he wasn't the enemy then, he was a mother's son... Poor little soul, he died on the way down."

Humphries and Emden describe their interviewees as "privileged and amused to have survived for so long".

It is only in the more openly demonstrative climate of recent years that many of them have lifted the curtain on their Great War emotions. This links with our need to make sense of what Eric Hobson has called the short 20th century, framed at both ends by tragedies in Sarajevo.

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The First World War veteran Robert Burns, then and now BBC

BBC

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FRIDAY POEM

THE THIRD WOMAN

BY NICKI JACKOWSKA

One was sleek and white and curled round his legs on a Sunday night and cupped his twisty heart like a twin to her own, and put her loving in.

Two was tall and measured him up for her days of marching round the loving-cup. She sliced and boned and sifted and scored and kept his heart in a cupboard stored.

Three was black and three was red three was a bitch beneath the bed. Sometimes a saint, sometimes a whore singing in his bones for evermore.

This poem comes from Nicki Jackowska's *'Lighting a Slow Fuse: New and Selected Poems'*, published by Enitharmon Press (£8.95) at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD

As we question our personal and national identities in a postmodern culture where so much of life is in inverted commas, the veterans of this book act as Janus-faced mediums between two worlds. They do justice to the memory of comrades, but some are able also to see their own ghosts. Here is Norman Collins, still mystically close to his Lewis-gunner pal a VC winner killed in 1917 after looking at his gravestone: "I have a lovely picture and there I am standing looking down, and Sergeant Meikle is young bones, of course, still young bones, and there I am, nearly a hundred, standing on top - very brittle bones with plenty of pain in them. Who had the better life?"

Collins and his fellow witnesses can stand at ease. They have been neither wearied nor condemned by the 80 years - rather like Ezekiel in the Old Testament, their words have brought the plain full of dry bones to life.

GORDON MARSDEN

The reviewer, MP for Blackpool South, is a former editor of *History Today*.

Svetlana Beriosova

AS A Royal Ballet School student, Lynn Seymour wrote to her mother in 1954. "Beriosova is only 23 and began dancing at the Garden three years ago. She is very aristocratic-looking and I can hardly wait to see her dance." When she did, she found her breathtaking and radiant.

Many ballerinas were inspired by Svetlana Beriosova; audiences and critics enthused over her. Yet she was to remain rather elusive as a public figure. This was partly due to a natural reticence: of all the young upwardly mobile ballerinas in the company, she was probably the least extrovert and least pushily ambitious.

It is tempting to see in this a sense of her being on the outside. Born in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1932, she was to live her childhood as a foreigner in different lands. Her father, Nicholas Beriosov, was a dancer of Russian origin (later a ballet master and choreographer, universally known as "Papa Beriosov") who had trained in Prague and in 1930 became a dancer at the Lithuanian State Opera. In 1935 he joined René Blum's Ballets de Monte Carlo and moved his wife and daughter to Monte Carlo.

When in 1936 Blum's company gave a London summer season, Beriosova went to a kindergarten school in Soho, which meant that she began to learn English, besides speaking Russian at home, and French. The company toured widely (later becoming the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo) but Beriosova mostly lived with her mother in Paris.

When the Second World War started and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo moved to the United States, Beriosova and her mother followed. Then aged seven, Beriosova had already received some ballet instruction from her father, but in New York her professional training began earnest with Anatole Vilzak and his wife Ludmila Schollar.

They were graduates of the Russian Imperial Ballet School, and had been in Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Schollar was respected for her knowledge of repertoire and her musicality; Vilzak encouraged an American critic to write, "a relaxed and eloquent sense of line" – a quality that was to emerge in Beriosova's dancing.

Beriosova's mother died in 1942.

She began to make occasional appearances in child-roles with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She made her professional début in 1947, dancing with the Ottawa Ballet in his 1951 version of *Casse-Noisette* (*The Nutcracker*). She was a deliciously humorous Swamida in *Coppélia*. Even so, Sorley Walker says:

It became increasingly apparent that, although technically she had an unfailing grasp of classical grandeur and lyrical power, in interpretation she depended greatly on the amount of self-confidence she could find from the encouragement of outside approval, something that could release the exceptional emotional qualities that were very deeply buried within her. Even in the late years of her dancing career, I often felt she would still be given an air of status if a ballerina was expected to do certain fall, she would have been sufficiently assured of her welcome to open out more completely. She seemed to lack the toughness that can allow an artist to express herself to the full in spite of unhelpful circumstances and depressing setbacks.

In the summer of 1952 she danced *The Sleeping Beauty's* Lilac Fairy with the Royal Ballet (then called the Sadler's Wells Ballet) and a few months later became a permanent member, from 1955 as a principal. She danced *Coppélia*, *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Giselle*. She created the central role in John Cranko's *The Shadow* (1953); the heroine, Princess Belle Rose, of his *Prince of the Poppies* (1957); and the title part of his *Antigone* (1959).

One impressed spectator was the Royal Ballet's director, Ninette de Valois.

'Everything about her dancing is rich and generous and grand'

Lois in her 1957 autobiography *Come Dance With Me*, de Valois writes:

One day in the foyer of Covent Garden I met a young girl with her father. I have seen her dance elsewhere and noted that such poetry of motion and feeling was rare in one so young... The personality is the same in private life: I hoped so much that one day she would be with us.

Beriosova joined de Valois's subsidiary company, Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet, as a principal in 1950. She was considered a valuable acquisition. "All the same," the critic Katherine Sorley Walker believes, "she would never totally fit into such a closely integrated group. Her talent and approach were so unusual that she would always remain to a certain extent an outsider."

George Balanchine created the



Probably the least extrovert and least pushily ambitious of ballerinas: Beriosova in 1956

ing both the Royal Ballet's Silver Jubilee and the individual talents of the company's seven ballerinas.

Ashton went on to choreograph roles for her in *Jazz Calendar* and *Enigma Variations* (both 1968). Kenneth MacMillan emphasised her pure-dance beauty in *Le Bois de la fée* (1960) and *Divertissements* (1961), as did ballets by Balanchine.

When Bronislava Nijinska mounted her masterpieces, *Les Biches* and *Les Noces*, in 1964 and 1966 respectively, on the Royal Ballet, she coached Beriosova in her own role of the Hostess in *Les Biches*. In *Les Noces*, Stravinsky's harsh, atavistic account of a Russian wedding, Beriosova was the Bride, a part with little dancing. Yet by her movements and her facial expressions, she be-

came the focal point of the ballet's group architecture.

Even so her career will perhaps be most associated with the classics – as Aurora, Giselle, Odette-Odile – where her expansive shapes and smooth fluency could come to the fore. Talking about tackling these roles, she said: "I think it's better if you've really lived, seen the harsher side of life, if you've been hurt, if you've cried a little, if you've laughed a lot."

She was said to be unhappy in her private life. She portrayed the Tsarina in MacMillan's new, extended version of *Anastasia* (1971), but by then was dancing less, through injury or illness. She retired from the stage in 1975, then made something of a comeback coaching on stage in

Maina Gielgud's demonstration show *Steps, Notes and Squeaks*, in 1978 and 1980. She was an outstanding teacher, a gift which the Royal Ballet failed to exploit.

Donald MacLeary, her regular stage partner, remembers her exquisite line and dazzling smile. "It was difficult to return her kindness," he says, "as she was a very strong and independent person. She loved books, painting, children and animals."

NADINE MEISNER

Svetlana Beriosova, ballerina; born Kaunas, Lithuania 24 September 1932; married 1959 Mohammed Masoud Khan (died 1989; marriage dissolved 1974); died London 10 November 1998.

Gillian Steel

IT IS only recently that it has been made easier for women to combine high achievement in the administrative Civil Service with bringing up a family. Gillian Steel accomplished this, though in her case, at the cost of taking a long break – 15 years – in the middle of her career.

She always enjoyed her civil service work, far more for the satisfaction it gave her, than for its material rewards. But faced with the woman's familiar dilemma of how to reconcile work with maternity, she put responsibilities to her children first.

Gillian Wanman, as she then was, had joined the Board of Trade in 1954, one of a number of clever young women in the Fifties who quickly made their mark in the Civil Service. She had gone up to Girton College, Cambridge, from Surbiton Girls' High School and, after obtaining a first in Economics at Cambridge, spent a year at Radcliffe, Massachusetts, where she took a further degree in Economics.

As an Assistant Principal at the Board of Trade she served on UK delegations handling negotiations on tariff reductions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), then in the Treasury Economic Section and subsequently as private secretary to the board's Permanent Secretary. She was promoted to Principal around the time of the UK's first attempt, with Edward Heath as chief negotiator, to join the European Economic Community. Gillian Steel worked on this and when it proved abortive was then involved in the formation of the European Free Trade Area (Efta).

In 1962 she had married a fellow civil servant, David Steel, and on the birth of their first child, James, in 1967 she determined to devote herself to full-time motherhood and resigned from the service. This she enjoyed rather more than she expected and she devoted all her enthusiasm and abilities to the task of bringing up her son.

It wasn't long, however, before she was persuaded to do some occasional work for the Civil Service Selection Board, at first from home, marking examination papers and assessing and commenting on candidates. She then became part of the interviewing panel which met for



The woman's familiar dilemma

three days about six times a year. Thus she was one of the people setting the pattern of who joined the Civil Service during the 1970s, and influenced the composition of its present-day administrators.

Her second child, Catherine, was born in 1973 and it wasn't until 1984, soon after the service had introduced a system of flexible working, largely to encourage the return of married women with family responsibilities who had experience at the Principal grade, that Gillian Steel returned part-time. While her first spell in the service had largely been spent working on overseas commercial relations, in the second half of her career her duties were concerned with domestic issues.

After working once more at the Board of Trade she moved to the Cabinet Office, where she was involved with new legislation about the powers of the Parliamentary Commissions for Administration (the Ombudsman).

In 1988 she returned to full-time work and was promoted to the rank of Assistant Secretary. She joined the staff of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, where she was team leader on a number of tricky inquiries, including those into newspaper distribution, David Sullivan's wish to buy and control the Bristol Evening Post, petrol distribution and the supply of motor cars.

Encouraged to work on beyond the normal retirement age of 60, she stayed at work until 1996, when she looked forward to spending more time gardening, travelling – she was a keen walker – and studying French Literature. But it wasn't long before she learnt of the onset of cancer. This she fought vigorously, going into hospital just a few days before her death.

Her son is now an economist at the Treasury, while her daughter is shortly to become a junior lecturer in Classics at Glasgow University.

NIGEL LLOYD

Gillian Diana Jean Wanman, civil servant; born Hove, East Sussex 30 September 1931; married 1962 David Steel (one son, one daughter); died London 18 October 1998.

Ellis Robinson



"Gerrup. Tha's makin' an exhibition o' thissen" Hulton Getty

ELLIS ROBINSON was the last link with Yorkshire County Cricket Club's near-invincibles of the 1930s.

He had a strong frame, sufficient height to win bounce, and long fingers imparting sharp spin. Were he a 25-year-old off-break bowler today he would probably be first-choice spinner for England; in fact he never played in a Test match, losing his best years to the Second World War.

He was also more than useful left-handed batsman and a brilliant close field, taking 268 first-class catches, some of them sensational.

His Christian names, Ellis Pembroke, derived from his mother, a cockney housewife who served a Cambridgeshire family called Ellis Pembroke Merry. "My mum had played cricket on Parker's Piece, where Jack Hobbs had played, and I can't remember when I didn't play the game," he told Nigel Fulmar in an interview in 1994.

As he was born in Denby, Robinson's Yorkshire qualification was never in doubt and it was from the local club that he was sent to Bramall Lane, Sheffield, for George Hirst to cast an eye upon a promising wicketkeeper batsman. "There was no room to keep wicket so, am-

ious to impress Mr Hirst, I bowed a few quick leg-breaks and googlies."

He must have registered with Hirst for when invited to the winter sled at Headingley he was told to forget his leg-breaks – there would be no room in the team with Hedley Verity starting his reign – and concentrate on bowling off-breaks, as George Macaulay was coming close to the end of his career.

Robinson made his Yorkshire debut at Worcester in 1934, taking 4-31 and watching the 18-year-old Len Hutton reach 196, his first century. Not until 1937, when he took 78 wickets at an average of 22, could Robinson consider himself a first-team player; he followed with 104 wickets in 1938, then 120 before spending six years in the RAF.

He was given a Test trial in 1946 (149 wickets) and believed he should have been included in Wally Hammond's team to Australia that following winter. "I turned the ball more than most off-spinners (he spent much of his career bowling round the wicket) and I think I would have been effective in Australia." Ian Johnson, Australia's premier off-spinner, sought Robinson's advice when touring England in 1948.

Robinson spent most of his playing career under the autocratic and aggressive Brian Sellers, who won six championships in eight seasons.

"I got a rollicking in my first match for putting my foot on the ball. In my first season, my spinning finger was so worn it was bleeding but Mr Sellers said I had to keep going and bowled me into the wind all day." In that match, bowling at Bristol, Robinson took 2-168, Hammond making 143.

"You were only paid if you played and I was never sure of my place. As an uncapped player I got £7 or £8 a match but had to pay my own travel and hotel expenses."

By 1949, with a new wave of players emerging, including Fred Trueman and Brian Close, Robinson was released to spend three summers with Somerset, taking 102 wickets in 1951 and persisting in wearing his old faded white rose cap.

He continued to live in Comisborough, next to the Plantagenet castle, and resumed his links with the Denby club. He was properly honoured by Yorkshire by being made an Honorary Life Member of the club in 1982. He was dressing to wear golf when he died.

DEREK HODGSON

Ellis Pembroke Robinson, cricketer; born Denby, Yorkshire 10 August 1911; died Comisborough, Yorkshire 10 November 1998.

Mary Millar

PLAYING HYACINTH Bucket's man-mad younger sister Rose in the situation comedy *Keeping Up Appearances* made Mary Millar's face familiar to millions after years of success in stage musicals, such as *The Phantom of the Opera* in the West End and *Camelot* with Richard Burton on Broadway, and supporting Stanley Baxter and Dick Emery in their television entertainment shows.

She took over the role of tarty Rose from Shirley Stelfox at the start of the second series of *Keeping Up Appearances* and provided a foil to Patricia Routledge's pretentious, social-climbing Hyacinth. Rose lived in a council house with her married elder sister Daisy, played by Judy Cornwell, who was also an embarrassment to the woman who was obsessed with etiquette and breeding, and insisted

that her surname was pronounced "Bouquet".

The comedy, by the *Last of the Summer Wine* writer Roy Clarke, was one of the most successful of the Nineties and Millar was 55 when she took over the part, travelling to the audition on a London Tube train, wearing a mini-skirt she had bought specially.

However, playing to an audience was something that came naturally to the Sheffield-born actress whose parents, Horace and Irene Wetton, were singers. Although originally planning to become a stable hand because of her love of animals, Millar – who adopted her stage name by rearranging her mother's maiden name, Mellor – was a Guinevere opposite Richard Burton.

Millar made her West End debut as Cloris in *Lock Up Your Daughters* (Her Majesty's Theatre, 1982) and a string of musical roles followed, including Lydia Languish in *All in Love* (Mayfair Theatre, 1984), the title role in *Ann Veronica* (Cambridge Theatre, 1988) and Poppy Dickie in *Pippin* (Globe Theatre, 1972). The actress also won praise

when she took over as Barbara Jackson from Judi Dench in the straight play *Puck of Pook's Hill* (Lyric Theatre, 1984).

One of the highlights of Millar's stage career was playing Madame Giry in the original West End production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, at Her Majesty's Theatre, alongside Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman. Millar stayed in the show for four years and was noted by one critic for her "intensely sinister figure of a ballet mistress who acts as a stone-faced messenger between the Phantom and his victims". Millar, who also played Sally in the European premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* in Manchester, later took part in the original workshop production of Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love* at Sydneyton.

Last year she joined the cast of *Rookery Nook*. An active Christian, the actress performed *An Evening With Mary* in several National Gospel tours, appeared in television programmes such as *Songs of Praise* and *Secombe on Sunday*, and travelled to Malawi to make a docu-



Keeping up appearances

mentary about the work of the charity World Vision.

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Mary Wetton (Mary Millar), actress and singer; born Doncaster 26 July 1936; married (one daughter); died London 10 November 1998.

NIGEL LLOYD

Gillian Diana Jean Wanman, civil servant; born Hove, East Sussex 30 September 1931; married 1962 David Steel (one son, one daughter); died London 18 October 1998.

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OBITUARIES/7

Gillian Steel

Paul McKee



SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER wizardry, crystal clear graphics and slick, professional presentation are now taken for granted whenever television concerns itself with the complex analysis of election voting trends and patterns. But it took the lateral thinking and mathematical mind of Paul McKee to bring them to the screen and make them a welcome and widely viewed aspect of today's television schedule.

Bob Mackenzie can lay claim to paternity of the "Swingometer", but McKee was the undisputed father of modern-day election presentation with its refinements of instantaneous analysis and the perpetually self-correcting "Virtual House of Commons". The methods he pioneered are now commonplace to television analysis of voting patterns and trends all over the world.

Born and brought up in Bradford, where he went to school at St Bede's Grammar, he went on to Imperial College, London, and graduated in Mathematics. He was quick to plunge into the fast-developing computing scene with English Electric where he made rapid progress to become general manager of computing services.

His interest was diverted to television in the 1960s when he was one of a team of computer people enlisted to help ITN. Television then had a major problem dealing speedily with the torrents of statistical election information pouring in from its increasingly powerful computers. Frantic production teams, knee-deep in print-out paper, could barely keep pace with the information, let alone make it intelligible to viewers and sustain their interest into the early hours. But from 1964 onwards, with Peter Snow in front of the camera and David Nicholas behind the scenes, McKee's slimming new graphics opened up a new world of viewer-friendly psephology.

Playing a part akin to James Bond's "Q", McKee's growing expertise and constant input made him increasingly indispensable and, in 1974, he joined ITN permanently as right-hand man to David Nicholas, where he was to anticipate many of the major industry changes waiting in the wings.

He continued to work on elections and made his greatest breakthrough in taming the feverish flow of information on election night itself, hitting upon a way to transfer the fluctuating facts and figures on to the screen in an instant. In De Wolfe fashion, he looked laterally and discovered a computer system used in, of all places, knitwear design that would lend itself to the problem at hand. Together with ITN engineers,

McKee ingeniously found the way to convert this system into a method of making electoral analysis, trends and forecasts immediately accessible to the viewer. And all of this from a man who never in his lifetime possessed a personal computer.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s McKee played a pivotal role at ITN, adapting to the new technologies. He oversaw ITN's election analysis and opinion polls, and continuously honed its news service's computer graphics. His techniques gained international admiration. When the North American network NBC adapted them in the 1970s they rechristened the technology "the ITN".

Such innovations sparked a new breed of camera-friendly statistical analyst. The likes of Alastair Burnet, Peter Sissons and Peter Snow were now able to blend their skilful journalistic presentation with McKee's applied technology.

The television role for dusty academics

on election night began to diminish and audiences responded accordingly. During this period, he also found time to produce a number of invaluable briefing books on elections, budgets and referendums and helped negotiate ITN's first contract to supply news to Channel 4.

In 1986 Paul Fox, then Managing Director at Yorkshire Television, persuaded McKee to come to Leeds to help the company get to grips with the fearsome changes in technology and working practices facing ITV. In this role, McKee's warmth and inspirational qualities won friendship and admiration, particularly for the way in which he calmly and resolutely dealt with the appalling union problems at YTV and within the industry as a whole. His compassionate approach won the minds and laid the mental backcloth for the changes that were to come.

No matter how hard the going, he would still find time to pop into the newsroom to lend a hand – especially when election night loomed. He enjoyed his work, but particularly enjoyed encouraging those around him at Yorkshire to make the most of their abilities.

Despite from the industrial battlefield came from sailing, and especially at the racecourse. By happy coincidence, his enthusiasm for turf if not surf was shared by almost the entire YTV senior management team. Staff soon learned it was pointless troubling them for decisions on St Leger day or during Ebor week.

Paul McKee's particular passion was steeplechasing; indeed his horse Little Poulter was a Scottish National winner in 1967. Two years later it romped home in the Grand National too; as luck would have it, only days after McKee had sold it. Needless to say, his characteristically deep reserves of good-humour and resilience stood up to the merciless banter and good-natured leg-pulling which followed.

From Yorkshire, he continued to develop his wide interests in computing and media, and advised the Government on the conduct of referendums. He marketed his experience across the world advising on news related programmes. In the course of this, he developed special attachments to the media interests of India, South Africa and, scarcely surprising in view of his solid Irish Catholic stock, Ireland.

The advent of leukaemia led to a long battle which progressively began to take its toll. But McKee was indefat-

itable. Spotted at a funeral service for an industry colleague at the end of last year, a somewhat pale and gaunt McKee recounted with relish his forthcoming projects – among them, the Irish referendum, and a couple of months in steamy Bombay analysing the Indian election. All were duly to receive his undivided and untiring attention.

GEOFF BROWNLEE

Paul McKee was more than friend: he was an inspiration and an anchor, writes Peter Snow.

He invented the election night graphics which gave me a new career. I was an ITN journalist; he was the cyber-king – inspired by a knitting programme he saw on a computer to create a quite new way of illustrating how people vote.

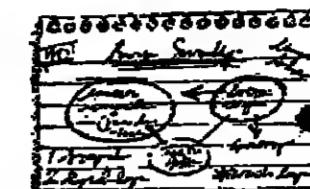
We formed a lasting friendship in the winter months of 1973 – hunched over a computer, racing to produce displays that would describe the outcome of Ted Heath's snap election of February 1974. I never believed I was going to be able to sit in a studio and forecast the result of every seat in the country on a computerised map after only a handful of results. But Paul made it happen: I remember our studio guests gaping at the screen in disbelief, and Paul rubbing his hands together with delight.

He did it by persuading all of us that anything was possible if we set our minds to it. He had an infectious obsession with figures and with the detail of electoral geography. But what captivated me was his intellectual enthusiasm and the cool judgement with which he directed his team.

But to me and my family – he was godfather to our son, Daniel – he was the friend we always wished we had with us in a jam. We shared a love of the sea: we never left harbour without seeing if Paul was free to join us. He had a knack of taking the anxiety out of sailing – whatever the weather.

Most of all he was a friend whose advice was always right. He was the first person I'd ring when I had a really difficult decision to make: good judgement is a precious asset and Paul McKee had it in plenty. Life will be a lot less sure without him.

Paul Rockford McKee, television executive and psephologist; born Bradford 27 March 1939; staff English Electric Company, 1960-74; Programme Development Executive, Independent Television News 1974-77; deputy chief executive 1977-86; deputy managing director, Yorkshire Television 1986-89; died Thirsk, North Yorkshire 9 November 1998.



ART-HISTORICAL NOTES

DAVID BUCKMAN

Where are the Hirsts of the 1930s now?

PROMOTED BY gallery publicity, young British artists – such as Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and Tracey Emin – are almost household names. Experience shows, however, that such reputations can soon fade. Francis Butterfield, in the 1930s rising star of the British avant-garde, are now forgotten.

Their backgrounds and odd histories were very different. Born in Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1905, Butterfield left school to become a wool stapler. Francis attended evening classes under Henry Butler at Bradford School of Art, to educate a passion for painting. By the late 1920s he had become frustrated with his day job and, despite the difficulties involved, began to paint full-time. Although he had never been to Paris or stayed in London, and his knowledge of contemporary painting was limited, black-and-white reproductions, he directed his team.

But to me and my family – he was godfather to our son, Daniel – he was the friend we always wished we had with us in a jam. We shared a love of the sea: we never left harbour without seeing if Paul was free to join us. He had a knack of taking the anxiety out of sailing – whatever the weather.

Most of all he was a friend whose advice was always right. He was the first person I'd ring when I had a really difficult decision to make: good judgement is a precious asset and Paul McKee had it in plenty. Life will be a lot less sure without him.

In 1934, Butterfield had a successful show at the prestigious Zwemmer Gallery, in London. He joined the Seven and Five Society, whose members included Henry Moore, Paul Nash and John Piper, took studios in London and Paris and had works accepted by several public galleries, although his type of string, hot glue and sand abstraction proved too much for Leeds Corporation Art Gallery.

By the early 1940s Butterfield had left such artistic controversy behind. He appears to have given up painting to work as a journalist. A former colleague at Norman Kirk Publications, where Butterfield illustrated and wrote for the glossy magazine *Couleur*, sometimes on art, remembers him as rather disillusioned. He died in obscurity in 1968.

While a student, Humphrey Slater fired a revolver through someone's ceiling, an indication of the unpredictable course his life would take. Born in 1904, Slater spent his early years in South Africa, attending the Slade School of Art in the mid-1920s, leaving mysteriously halfway through a term when he was taken up by the idiosyncratic dealer Lucy Wertheim. She chose an abstract painting for her first exhibition in 1930, "a breathtaking, daring innovation... in London in 1930".

Wertheim befriended Slater, whose witty, provocative conversation helped to win him many friends, including

Arthur Koestler, Cyril Connolly, A.J. Ayer, George Orwell and the Carline family of painters. The Wertheim connection could have proved a valuable launching pad for a prestigious painting career. Few galleries showed young artists at this time; Mrs Wertheim's attracted top critics, titled and famous customers.

But Slater's talents shifted from abstract painting, with which he became dissatisfied.

He joined the Communist Party, but was disillusioned during the Spanish Civil War. Serving with the International Brigade, he became adept at street warfare and tank destruction and was appointed chief of operations XV Brigade Staff. In 1940, Picture Post included Slater among a group of "Men Who Teach the Home Guard School".

Post-war, Slater for a brief time edited the arts magazine *Polemic* with a dazzling contributor's list, and developed a new career as a writer. His novel *The Conspirator* was filmed starring Elizabeth Taylor and Robert Taylor. In 1958, he died in Spain, where he had gone to write his autobiography. It was a sad end for someone termed by the painter William Goldstream "a very gifted and rare artist", and points up the fragility of early fame.

David Buckman is the author of *The Dictionary of Artists in Britain since 1945* (Art Dictionaries Ltd, £29.50).

GAZETTE

BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES
& DEATHS

DEATHS

GOWING: Professor Margaret CBE FRS FRA. Mother of Nick and James, died peacefully in hospital on 7 November, aged 77, after a long illness endured with determination. No memorial service as she requested. Funeral service on Tuesday, November 10, 11am, St Paul's Church, The High Street, at 11am. No flowers; donations to the Alzheimer's Society.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.59pm.

United Synagogues: 0171-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0151-232 2222. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-556 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0151-245 4711. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-248 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

(Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, visits the White Tower at the Tower of London, London EC3, and gives a reception at

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Ewart Bell, former senior civil servant, 74; The Most Rev Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury, 63; Sir John Coles, former Head of the Diplomatic Service; Miss Adrienne Corri, actress, 67; Miss Whoopi Goldberg, 43; Lord Jacobs, chairman, Tricof Group, 67; The Rev Patricia Johns, former Headmistress, St Mary's School, Wantage, 65; Mr Kenneth Kent, honorary life president, Smith and Nephew, 77; Maj-Gen James Doiran Lunt, 81; Mr John McGuckian, chairman, Ulster Television, 59; Mr Basil Morrison, pathologist, 77; Admiral Sir William O'Brien, 82; Mr Terry Reid, rock musician, 49; Mr Anthony T Shadforth, former chairman, Inco Europe, 57; Miss Alexandra Shulman, editor, British Vogue, 41; Ms Helen Southworth MP, 42; Sir Donald Thompson, former MP, 67.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: St Augustine of Hippo, 354; Edward III, King, 1312; Philip of Hesse, 1504; Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange, military leader, 1567; General Sir John Moore, 1761; Elias Teignor, bishop, scholar and poet, 1762; Edward John Trelawny, writer and traveller, 1792; Charles Frederick Worth, couturier, 1825; James Clerk Maxwell, physicist, 1831; Edwin Thomas Booth, actor, 1833; Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson, writer and traveller, 1850; John Drew, actor,

1853; George Whitefield Chadwick, composer, 1854; Eugene Ionesco, writer and playwright, 1912.

Deaths: Pope St Nicholas the Great, 567; Malcolm III, King of the Scots, killed 1033; Prince Henry the Navigator, 1460; Lodovico Carracci, painter, 1619; Thomas Erpenius (van Erpe), orientalist, 1624; Thomas May, poet, 1650; George Sale, orientalist and translator of the Koran, 1736; William Etty, painter, 1849; Sir John Forbes, physician and writer, 1861; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, 1861; Johann Ludwig Uhland, poet, 1862; Giovanni Buonaventura Genelli, painter, 1863; Gioacchino Antonio Rossini, composer, 1868; Armand-Michel Michel Adelée, explorer, 1883; Ernest Giles, explorer, 1898; Camille Pissarro, painter, 1903; Francis Thompson, poet, 1907; Enrico Cecchetti, dancer, 1926; Roark Whitney Bradford, novelist, 1948; Nikolai Karlovich Medzini, composer, 1951; Jacques Fath, couturier, 1954; Elsa Schiaparelli, couturière, 1973; Robert Cedric Sheriff, playwright and novelist, 1975; Chesney Allen, comedian, 1982.

On this day: Malcolm was slain and the Scots defeated by the English at Alnwick, 1093; the Jacobites were defeated at Sheriffmuir and Preston, 1715; Texas declared its independence of Mexico, 1836; the telegraphic service between London and Paris started, 1851; serious casualties occurred among socialist and Irish agitators on Bloody Sunday in Trafalgar Square, 1887; the fourth phase of the Battle of the Somme began, 1916; a Pacific treaty was signed between the US, the British Empire, France and Japan, 1921; the inner coffin of Tutankhamen was opened at Luxor, 1925; a cyclone and tidal waves caused the death of over 500,000 people in East Pakistan, 1970; Iceland agreed a plan to end the "Cod War" with Britain, 1973; a state of emergency was proclaimed in Britain, following an overtime ban by electric and oil workers, 1973.

Today is the Feast Day of St Abbo of Fleury, St Arcadius, St Brice or Britius, St Didacus or Diego of Seville, St Eugenius of Toledo, St Frances Xavier Cabrini, St Homobonus, St Maxellende, St Nicholas I, pope and St Stanislaus Kostka.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Visions (II): Visions of the South: Van Gogh in Provence", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rennell, "Lacquer: East and West (II)", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Alan Morrison, "Sargent and Modernism", 1pm.

British Museum: Pamela Magrill, "Highlights from the Holy Land: introducing the ancient Levant", 1.30pm.

Exeter University: Dr J. Jones, "Quantum Computation and NMR", 12pm.

Centre for Regional Studies, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge: Tony Kirby, "Ordnance Survey

Maps and the Historian", 6.30pm.

RECEPTIONS

HM Government: Mrs Barbara Roach MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, on the occasion of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the UK-Korea Forum for the Future.

Lord Penrose-Wilhams, Lord Nelson, Sir Nigel Bagnall, Sir David Calvert QC, Treasurer of the Middle Temple; Mr Stephen Lester, Lord Justice Rose; Mr Michael Hallett QC, Chairman of the Bar; Dr David Docherty, Deputy Director, BBC Television; Mr Simon Bowes Lyon, Vice-Librarian of the Royal Holloway, Francis Gray's Inn; Mr David Macmillan, Under-Treasurer, Gray's Inn; Mr Anthony Lush, Estates Bureau.

High Court Journalists' Association: The 55th anniversary dinner of the High Court Journalists' Association was held yesterday evening at Middle Temple Hall, London EC4.

Mr Robert Williams, chairman, welcomed the guests.

Mr Justice Eady and Mr Justice Morrison, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, were the speakers.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Fines for health and safety breaches

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

13 NOVEMBER 1998

Regina v F. Howe & Son (Engineers) Ltd

Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Rose, Vice-President, Mr Justice Scott Baker and Mr Justice Hughes)

6 November 1998

ed the offence. The standard of care imposed by the legislation was the same regardless of the size of the company or its financial strength. Smaller organisations which did not have their own in-house expertise in health and safety matters could obtain it, if necessary by seeking assistance from the Health and Safety Executive.

Other matters that might be relevant to sentence were the degree of risk and extent of the danger created by the offence; the extent of the breach or breaches; and, importantly, the defendant's resources and the effect of the fine on its business.

Particular aggravating features would include a failure to heed warnings, and deliberate financial profit from a failure to take necessary health and safety steps or a risk run specifically to save money. Particular mitigating features would include prompt admission of responsibility and a timely plea of guilty; steps to remedy deficiencies after they had been drawn to

the defendant's attention; and a good safety record.

If a defendant company wished to make any submission to the court about its ability to pay a fine it should supply copies of its accounts and any other financial information on which it intended to rely in good time before the hearing, both to the court and to the prosecution. Where such accounts or information were deliberately not supplied, the court would be entitled to conclude that the company was in a position to pay any financial penalty that it was minded to impose, and where the relevant information was supplied late it might be desirable for sentence to be adjourned, if necessary at the defendant's expense.

The objective of prosecutions for health and safety offences in the workplace was to achieve a safe environment for those who worked there and for other members of the public who might be affected. A fine needed to be large enough to bring that message home not only to those who managed the company but also to its shareholders. Whilst in general a fine should not be so large as to imperil the



Miracle of the cigar and the wing mirrors

ARRANGING TO spend a day with eco warriors involves a different set of problems from your average appointment. There's no receptionist to say "Hang on a moment while I check Mr Earthworm's diary... ah yes he's free at 10.40 on Monday the ninth. When you arrive, just go through the revolving doors and be up the third tree on the left." So I just asked the first person I saw, who said: "Yeah, like, just, yeah, whatever; hey, like, whenever; I mean, it's your park. Or you could ring Animal."

I rang Animal, but his phone had been cut off, so I just went up at midday on Sunday. After all, it is my park.

But where were they all? For half an hour I squelched through the frontier settlement built on mud, crawling through dwellings made of tarpaulin draped over branches or irreparable caravans, finding nobody. Until, through the chickpea-stained plates and juggling sticks, segments of plaited hair protruding from fraying blankets, I discovered sleeping life.

Then the faint plinking of a guitar played the role of the distant harmonica in Westerns,

when a shadowy stranger arrives in a deserted town.

The guitarist was playing in a broken-down bus to an audience of three eco campers staring into space. It was instantly recognisable, because, nearly 20 years earlier, I'd lived in a road of squats in which everyone's hobby was staring into space. It was also normal for someone to knock on your door at 2.30am and ask if they could borrow some peanut butter. One night someone went door to door asking if they could borrow a wardrobe as somewhere to keep his pet owl. The only time a party in that street finished before two in the morning was when a satanist chopped through the mains with an axe.

The difference with the inhabitants of the eco camp in Crystal Palace Park, south London, is that they have an objective beyond their own lifestyle: deterring the developers who are planning to build a 20-screen cinema with parking for 1,000 cars on the site on to which they've moved.

How do they keep up with this? Don't they forget the original question? And what happens if a second question is asked in the time before the answer to the first? Perhaps they get out of sync, so that the

despite almost total opposition from the local population, the bulldozers will roll over the tarpaulin and Crystal Palace will have its very own Gaza strip.

The warriors are prepared for their judgement day. Holes have been dug, tree-houses erected and obstacles put in place. But on Sunday their tactic was to stare into space. The main cultural difference, I realised, between their world and that of most people is the approach to time. Someone asks a question, like "Have we got any milk?" and no one answers. The guitarists keep strumming, the others keep staring, and, as an outsider, you feel a desperate need to fill the space with a reply. "I think there's some left in the jug," you feel like saying, with no idea whether they've even got a jug, because for everyone to carry on with no answer at all is just wrong. Then, after about two minutes someone will say "No".

How do they keep up with this? Don't they forget the original question? And what happens if a second question is asked in the time before the answer to the first? Perhaps they

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Saturday?" But no one answered. "Right, I'm off then," said Ville. I asked him where he was going. "Finland," he said.

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sequence could go: "Have we any got any milk?" "Where's Animal?" "No" "Where's the milk from yesterday?"

"Crashed out in the caravan."

During one unsettling pause, a two-year-old ran through the bus giggling, at which point a woman, who hadn't spoken a word until then, cracked: "She calls her toy rabbit Acab." There was a long pause, and then: "Acab - All coppers are bastards."

Storm explained the legal side of the campaign, and, when he finished, someone said: "Is it

side of the road there's a Rolls-Royce. And the guy inside's smoking a cigar that could feed the guy in the box."

After a few hours you find yourself adjusting to the rhythm of all this, and then it dawns on you that, without any formal invitation, you've wandered into someone else's home and stayed there for the whole of Sunday afternoon.

But then events speeded up.

Tony, an ex-smack addict, arrived. He'd been deep into the abyss when he joined the camp.

Without the help of the others, who had the time and experience to wean him off his addiction, he'd never have made it, and now he seemed fit, motivated and extremely sociable. So the eco camp is actually the ideal venue for staying off drugs.

Next came Gary. And Gary was angry. So angry that, even when he said to Tony "Let me tell you, you've done brilliant", he said in a way that made you think: "Blimey, that bloke's angry."

"This society's screwed - in the head - when you can walk past a guy in a cardboard box. Right. Huh. And on the other

have been quoted in the local newspapers as wishing the eco warriors luck.

But also because the camp is caught in the dual forces of modern Britain. On the one hand there is more disapproval and contempt for the rich and powerful than for many years, but the parties which would once have expressed that outrage have collapsed in confusion over the fall of Eastern Europe or surrendered to the dubious charms of smiling boy Blair. So the eco warriors earn the "at least they're having a go" sentiment, which is usually supplemented with a wishful "it's a pity more people haven't got their guts".

And they don't even have an image consultant giving them advice like: "I think it might come across better on Newsnight if you left out the two-minute gap before answering Paxman. And if you didn't play the guitar and stare into space while you're debating with John Prescott."

And if you didn't get up halfway through the interview and announce that you are going to Finland."

Was Jinnah a saint or sinner?

Lord Mountbatten called Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, a vain, evil genius. A new film attempts to rehabilitate him as a tolerant secularist and as the model for a modern Muslim leader. By Paul Vallely

In the end the sex was a hit of disappointment. We had been promised, in advance press reports, that we would see Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, revealed as a bisexual and that we would witness new details of the steamy affair between Mountbatten's wife, Edwina, and the first prime minister of India, Pandit Nehru.

Of all that, more later. In the event there was something far more interesting about *Jinnah*, the new film by the director Jamil Dehlavi and the academic Akbar Ahmed, which was such a sell-out when it was premiered earlier this month at the London Film Festival, that a second screening has been organised next week before it goes on general release.

For it asks a question which is not historical but very much of our time: who speaks for Islam? And it posits the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as the exemplar of a tolerant, open, democratic style of Muslim leadership - in contrast to the archetypes of the mad mullah and the military dictator which dominate our contemporary view of the religion of Mohamed.

The film is Pakistan's answer to what it saw as the travesty of their great founder hero as he was portrayed in Richard Attenborough's movie *Gandhi*. Not that *Jinnah* has been universally acclaimed in Pakistan. A bitter and virulent campaign has been launched against the film there with the nation's biggest English-language paper carrying a front-page condemnation because of the actor chosen to play the great national hero - Christopher Lee. (The piece was accompanied by an old Hammer horror pic of Lee as Dracula, complete with fanged teeth.) And this came on top of the row about a white actor blocking up for the role which had blown up earlier when Jeremy Irons was mooted for the part.

Such was the furor that the man who has inspired and produced the film, the Cambridge don and Islamic scholar Akbar Ahmed, was forced to chair a press conference in Karachi flanked by historians and former government ministers to defend the project from all sides. It had achieved the unenviable distinction of being attacked in India as Pakistani propaganda and in Jinnah's home country as both a Hindu and a Zionist plot.

Rewriting history is, of course, always contentious. And viewing the past merely as a lens through which to endorse our view of the present is the fallacy which the great historian Herbert Butterfield warned against in *The Whig Interpretation of History*. Yet Professor Ahmed felt he had no alternative after the portrait of his hero in Attenborough's film. "He was given four love letters from Nehru to Edwina by a Hindu rival to Nehru. The rival was confident that Jinnah would publish them in a newspaper. But instead, Jinnah said 'guitar politics was not his style and that he'd rather not have an independent Pakistan if it meant resorting to that.'

The slander, in Akbar Ahmed's eyes, goes well beyond the cinema. Lord Mountbatten - while publicly claiming he was entirely impartial between Jinnah's Pakistan and Nehru's India - privately called the Muslim leader everything from vain and megalomaniacal to an evil genius, a



Above: Christopher Lee plays Jinnah in the film by Jamil Dehlavi and the Cambridge don Akbar Ahmed. Inset, the real Jinnah



Ahmed felt he had no alternative after the portrait of his hero in 'Gandhi', where Jinnah is a glowering villain - impervious to the dangers of breaking up British India and the deaths which ensued at partition

lunatic, a psychotic case and a "bastard". By contrast Ahmed's film - and the book, TV documentary and Pakistani comic-book which are also part of the rehabilitation project - sees Jinnah as a complex and sensitive figure whose political views evolved and altered significantly during his lifetime (going from a pan-religious Indian nationalist to a Muslim separatist) in response to the events which were forced upon him by the British, Nehru and the man he describes as "wily old Gandhi".

Jinnah has always been seen as a blackguard - but, in fact, he was unimpeachable in his integrity," Ahmed said. His research included the first published interviews with Jinnah's daughter and private secretary. They revealed that the Pakistani leader knew about the affair between Nehru and Edwina. "He was given four love letters from Nehru to Edwina by a Hindu rival to Nehru. The rival was confident that Jinnah would publish them in a newspaper. But instead, Jinnah said 'guitar politics was not his style and that he'd rather not have an independent Pakistan if it meant resorting to that.'

Tussling with this welter of historical detail clearly threw up a number of dilemmas for Ahmed. There

will be many who feel that he took the pusillanimous options in his attempt to come up with Pakistan's answer to *Gandhi*. The sex between Edwina and Nehru is hinted at in the gentlest of ways. Louis Mountbatten's sexual ambiguity - or at least his lack of jealousy at his wife's relationship with the Indian leader - remains enigmatic. And scenes which revealed Jinnah to be in contravention of Muslim law: "Here is a man who wants to balance tradition and modernity, who is speaking as a Muslim but also as a man who says that Islam is tolerant," said Ahmed. "Jinnah is a modern Muslim leader who believes in human rights, minority rights and

women's rights and who - in a nation now tainted by corruption - was a man of total integrity, taking only one rupee a month as his pay."

Yet the Jinnah model has now almost faded from view. Many Pakistanis under the age of 30 have never even heard of him. "Their idea of an Islamic leader is a military dictator like Saddam, or the 'mad mullah' model of Afghanistan or Iran," he said. "Many people have latterly been taught to regard Jinnah as a secular figure but he spent his life fighting for a kind of Islam which showed respect for law, for the rights of women and of minorities - things which the Prophet Mohammed himself insisted upon."

In one sense this is familiar territory for Akbar Ahmed. During the Rushdie crisis he spent many hours mediating between the positions of fundamentalists in the Muslim and libertarian camps, explaining that Rushdie was guilty of needless blasphemy - for which he should alone - but unequivocally condemning the *fatwa* which condemned the author to death.

In many parts of the world today Islam, or a particular interpretation of it, has rushed into the vacuum in which angry, alienated young Mus-

lims exist. "It gives them a sense of pride, identity and strength - and the notion that they have the ability to shake the most powerful nation on earth with a few bombs," Ahmed said.

In countries where the state is strong the result is military dictatorship; where the state is weak the result is mullah-led theocracy.

"The Jinnah model is much more ambiguous, yet if it is not kept before the eyes of young Muslims then they will turn to a Gaddafi or Khomeini figure," he said.

Either that or they will descend into the morass of myopia, corruption and caprice which he says characterises modern-day Pakistan. Over the past two decades the state Jinnah founded has undergone successive periods of martial law, abortive military coups and states of emergency - in which only one president has completed his term, prime ministers have been dismissed eight times, one prime minister was assassinated, one executed, and eight parliaments have been prematurely dissolved.

Jinnah would be horrified at the distortion which has grown from his ideal of a secular state, Akbar Ahmed insists. "Now, more than ever, Muslims need to be reminded that there is another way."

Continued from page 1 after his conviction for assault in France. Though Yelland won't give a figure or discuss the Boycott contract, it was a big decision which may cost the paper a cool £250,000 or so. But thousands of women readers of every age telephoned in after the paper's five pages of deeply hostile coverage of the Boycott court case and told him it was the right thing to do.

So what about the paper's close - some say incestuous - relationship with the Labour Government? Oddly, despite the difficult time it has caused Mandelson recently - it has also done what some people think of as blatant sucking up - including an odd news piece baffling to anyone who had been at the Labour conference, saying that Mandelson's politely received speech had had "delegates rolling in the aisles". The explanation is straightforward, says Yelland.

"It was Dave Wooding's piece. I love David dearly but he went way over the top. He's now left the paper, so I can say that. It was not written in the office.

"It was 'bollocks' to suggest the paper had been ingratiating itself with Mandelson because of Mandelson's power to decide the News International bid for Manchester United. He had had a heated conversation with Mandelson the evening of the Parris outing - which after all was the day before Mandelson referred the bid to the MMC. "I would never reveal what the conversation was but he was not happy that we were putting it in the paper so the idea we were nice to Mandelson because of any pressure from above is not true. We have been very critical of him actually. I do think he's a very bright guy. He's one who if he does something we approve of we would say so." Like Blair and Brown, Mandelson is a high-profile politician about whom *The Sun* writes a lot. And what about the Euro, after the Sun's leader suggesting that Blair, marvellous a Prime minister as *The Sun* thinks he just might be the "most dangerous man in Britain". Yelland - personally, he says, a long standing opponent of EMU, clearly and right believes - that *The Sun* has had a big effect on the Euro debate, though he is surprisingly modest about saying so. A total of 150,000 readers phoned in support after that leader - more than after the death of Princess Diana. And yes, the Sun's plan is certainly to keep on opposing EMU - up to and including a referendum if there is one. Except that Yelland allows himself just one caveat. "Unless it works."

As for the paper's overall relationship with the Government, Yelland insists, it is more frictional than it looks. For a start, whereas, when the paper supported Thatcher it never "printed a critical word". It now "shits over all Tony Blair" some of the time. He won't say how often he speaks to Blair - or to Alastair Campbell - who he says has "gone nuts" with the paper twice this week, though on what, he won't say.

As Yelland points out, we've spent most of our time talking politics. As it happens, he found today's story about Ben Needham, the missing boy who disappeared on Kos in 1991, "a lot more exciting".



Why men become anoraks

Evolution may have programmed an autistic element into men's psyches which makes them prone to obsessive, train-spotting behaviour. By Sanjida O'Connell

Powerful new techniques to investigate mental illness are providing scientists with a dramatic insight into autism, a baffling disorder where affected children cannot form normal emotional bonds with their friends and family. Using brain scanners and genetic analysis, scientists are discovering that autistic-like traits may be more common within the healthy population than previously realised and that they may even be an advantage in certain professions - such as science.

Autism affects men more than women. Eight out of nine autistics and 14 out of 15 people with "high functioning" autism - known as Asperger's syndrome - are men. A third of people with autism suffer from mental retardation, but Asperger's is characterised by normal or high IQ. In both cases, people with either Asperger's or autism have problems understanding how other people think or feel. They lack the ability to put themselves in someone else's position, what psychologists describe as "theory of mind".

Most of us explain and predict other people's behaviour by guessing their mental state - their thoughts, desires and beliefs. As Professor Daniel Dennett, a philosopher from Tufts University in Massachusetts, explains: "Watching a film with a highly original and un-stereotyped plot, we see the hero smile at the villain and we all swiftly and effortlessly arrive at the same theoretical diagnosis: 'Aha!' we conclude (but perhaps not consciously), 'He wants her to think he doesn't know she intends to drown her brother!'"

A person with autism only sees the hero smile at the villain; moreover, he or she will also find it difficult to empathise with any of the characters. This kind of intelligence is the oil that lubricates social relations. Some psychologists now believe that the ability to predict other people's behaviour on the basis of what we think they are thinking - rather than an ability to use tools or language - was the driving force behind human evolution.

According to this theory, if our brains have increased in size and complexity, fuelled by our need to work out what our nearest and dearest might be thinking of doing, specific areas of the brain should be devoted to social cognition. Professor Leslie Brothers, from the School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles, suggests that three parts of the brain are crucial: the orbito-frontal cortex, the superior temporal gyrus, and the amygdala, a small walnut-sized region at the base of the brain.

Simon Baron-Cohen and Sally Wheelwright of Cambridge University, and a team of researchers from the Royal London School of Medi-



Colin Firth playing the Arsenal fanatic in the film of Nick Hornby's novel 'Fever Pitch'. Scientists think such behaviour could be linked to autism

cine and the University of London, took brain scans of both normal people and those with Asperger's syndrome, while they were solving a problem designed to test social intelligence. The subjects were given photographs of people's eyes and asked to guess what the person was thinking or feeling. Even with so little visual information most of us could score highly on this kind of task; those with Asperger's tend to get about half the questions right. The team's work seems to indicate that the frontal and temporal regions of the brain and the amygdala were used to calculate social intelligence. When the people with Asperger's answered the questions, they used

some of the same brain areas, but not the amygdala. Previous studies have indicated that the amygdala's major role lies in processing emotions. "What we have also shown is that it is involved in inference of a broader range of mental states from the face and especially the eyes," says Dr Baron-Cohen.

The scientists believe there is a gene for autism for autism; previous research suggested that if a child has autism, Asperger's and autistic-like traits will tend to run in the family. A survey of the fathers and grandfathers of people with autism also found that they were twice as likely to be engineers than the relatives of non-autistic people. The stereo-

type of scientists is still of predominately male, brilliant but impractical, cold, unemotional with limited communication skills - autistic-like traits, in other words.

Dr Baron-Cohen chose to look at engineering since this is a predominantly male occupation which requires a high level of understanding of physics, but does not rely on any kind of social intelligence. The team expanded its investigation by asking students at Cambridge University whether they had a relative who was autistic or had autistic-like traits.

The students were grouped into two categories: those who were reading humanities, literature and arts, and those who were scientists,

training to be mathematicians, physicists and engineers. It was found that science students were six times more likely than humanities students to have autistic relatives.

The team delved further by giving highly intelligent eight- to 12-year-old children with Asperger's "folk physics" and "folk psychology" tests. Folk physics is the kind of science that can be understood without knowledge of physics. "They're the kind of thing that can be solved just from being alive. The prediction was that these children's knowledge of how machines work would be superior to their knowledge of how people work," Dr Baron-Cohen says. "The [folk physics] tests are not

everyone's cup of tea. Actually I had quite a lot of problems with the tests myself," he says. He had less difficulty with the questions designed to test folk psychology - our innate ability to be socially intelligent. As predicted, the children performed poorly when they had to guess other people's thoughts or emotional states, but were better than the average 16-year-old at solving mechanical problems.

So could autism be linked to science? The best-selling novelist Nick Hornby is firmly in the artistic camp, but his semi-autobiographical novels deal with male characters who cannot express their emotions and have Asperger's-like traits, such

as an obsessive attention to detail and a train-spotting mentality.

For example, Robert, the central character in Hornby's novel *High Fidelity* believes you cannot be a decent person without at least 500 records. Robert continuously makes lists of the top five singles of all time, top five Elvis Costello records, top five Monday morning hits. When he is asked to go to his girlfriend's father's funeral, he asks his mates for their best five pop songs on death. It is no coincidence, perhaps, that Hornby has an autistic son.

According to Dr Baron-Cohen it is not that autism is linked to being a scientist per se, but that the skills required for being a good physicist or engineer are the ones that we currently think of as typically male. Professor David Skuse, from the Institute of Child Health at University College London Medical School, is about to publish evidence suggesting where a gene or genes for autism might be found. He believes that these genes are carried on the X sex chromosome. Girls have two of these, one from each parent, whereas boys only have one, which they inherit from their mothers.

"The threshold hypothesis we are suggesting is that normal girls who carry their father's X chromosome also have a protective factor on that chromosome which helps to prevent them from developing autism," Professor Skuse says. "We believe it is an imprinted gene, which is switched off when inherited from one parent and switched on when inherited from the other. In this particular instance we are suggesting the gene is always switched on when it is transmitted by a father and always switched off when it is transmitted by a mother." This would explain why boys are more prone to autism than girls.

If Professor Skuse's hypothesis proves to be correct, the consequences are two-fold: first it means that autism or autistic-like traits must be far more common than most of us imagine. Second, since these genes can protect women from autism, but do not protect men, there might be some slight evolutionary advantage that is conferred if men have a mild form of autism and women do not.

Dr Baron-Cohen and Professor Skuse believe autism and Asperger's may be an extreme form of the male brain, a suite of behavioural attributes that are at one end of a spectrum of otherwise normal human responses. "A little bit of autism could be useful. For instance, if men are a bit less socially responsive, this would allow them to be more dominant." It could also help them to excel in the typically "male" professions of engineering and science, said Professor Skuse.

Sanjida O'Connell's novel, *Angel Bird*, is published this month

"THE ION engine on Deep Space 1 has shut down unexpectedly." This may sound like a line from Star Trek, but in fact it was the latest news from Nasa on a space probe sent to rendezvous next July with an asteroid, 1992 KD. After working for just over four minutes, the futuristic solar-powered engine, which throws out a constant stream of xenon ions to accelerate its payload, turned itself off and failed to restart. The ion engine of Deep Space 1 probe is one of 12 new technologies being tested on the \$152m (\$91m) mission.

THE US ARMY has teamed up with the American Red Cross to develop bandages and a foam and spray which can stop severe bleeding in seconds. The treatments contain freeze-dried versions of two natural clotting agents - a protein, fibrinogen, and the enzyme thrombin

- at concentrations 50 to 100 times greater than in blood. When they touch blood they start forming the sticky lattice of fibrin molecules which becomes a scab. In animal experiments, arterial bleeding - where the blood pumps out of the body - was stopped within 15 to 60 seconds, cutting the blood lost compared with the standard procedure (applying firm pressure and a bandage to the wound) by 80 to 85 per cent. Clinical trials on humans are expected to start within a year. The foam is intended for bullet wounds and similar puncture wounds with deep-seated bleeding.

WHAT HAPPENED in 1250?

Astronomers have discovered that people should have seen the light

UPDATE

from a supernova which exploded closer to Earth than any other since. It would have been the brightest object in the night sky apart from the Moon, yet records fail to mention it. Either the astronomers were sloppy, or there is a new celestial phenomenon - invisible supernovae.

The discovery by scientists at the Max Planck Institute in Germany was reported in the journal *Nature*. The supernova turned up when they were scanning the constellation Vela for X-rays and gamma rays, which can be byproducts of a supernova explosion. There's 650 light-years away, they found the supernova's gas cloud - still twice as hot as the Sun's core, and up to 25 light-years across.

Scientists are divided over the explanation: some suggest it was sloppy record-keeping in the Middle

Ages, others that little visible light was produced in the explosion, and yet others believe that interstellar dust might have obscured the sight.

A COMMON virus may contribute to "hardening of the arteries", otherwise known as arteriosclerosis, according to new research. Animal studies show that cytomegalovirus (CMV), which causes few symptoms apart from a mild rash or flu-like symptoms, seems to contribute later in life to hardening of the arteries, according to Archana Chatterjee of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. "In most cases CMV is a benign disease... Most people don't even know they've been infected," she said. But depending on the size of the risk, it may be worth vaccinating people against CMV when young to avoid arteriosclerosis later, she suggested.

At the UN, the independent gives on. In Nairobi, the despair is critical. In

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TECHNOQUEST

Q: Can we lose our sense of taste and smell?

Yes, and people who go to their GP, reporting a loss of either sense are, after testing, found to be either completely without smell or taste sensations or they may have a reduced sensitivity to particular tastes or smells. In some disorders of the chemical senses, the system may misread and distort a smell, a taste, or a flavour. Or a person may detect a bad smell or taste from a substance that is normally nice. Smell disorders are more common than taste disorders and both are potentially serious. A person with faulty chemosenses is deprived of an early warning that most of us take for granted. Smell and taste alert us to fires, poisonous fumes, leaking gas, and spoiled food and beverages. Smell and taste losses can also lead to depression because

eating just isn't fun anymore.

Some people are born with poor senses of taste or smell, but most develop them after an injury or illness. Upper respiratory infections and head injuries are frequently blamed. Loss of the sense of smell can result from polyps in the nasal cavities, sinus infections, hormonal disturbances, or dental problems. Loss of smell and taste also can be caused by exposure to chemicals such as insecticides and by some medicines. For example, many patients find that their sense of taste and smell is affected after receiving radiation therapy for cancers of the head and neck.

The extent of a particular person's problem can be determined by measuring the lowest concentration of a chemical that he or she can detect. A patient also may be asked to compare the smells

or tastes of different chemicals or to note how the intensities of smells or tastes grow when a chemical's concentration is increased.

Scientists have developed a "scratch and sniff" test to evaluate smell. A person scratches pieces of paper treated to release different smells, sniffs them, and tries to identify each one from a list. In taste testing, the patient responds to different chemical concentrations: this may involve a simple "sip, spit, and rinse" test, or chemicals may be applied to areas of the tongue.

Q: Who was the first person to wear a watch?

The first known recorded wrist watch was made by two Swiss men - Jaquet-Droz and Leschot in Geneva in 1790. It was a "watch to be fixed to a bracelet". The earliest surviving example is from 1806.

Q: How long and at what height and speed does the space shuttle orbit?

The type of orbit depends on the shuttle's mission. The *Hubble* repair mission was conducted at a record shuttle altitude of about 359 miles because that was where *Hubble* was positioned.

The STS 70 mission which carried the Russian cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, reached about 220 miles. The lower the orbit, the higher the orbital speed.

The speed of 160-mile high circular orbital speed would be about 17,750mph. There is not much difference between orbital speeds from 160 to 350 miles. One orbit takes about 90 minutes.

You can also visit the technocast World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>

WIN A WEEK LONG ALL-INCLUSIVE CLUB MED SKIING HOLIDAY.

Everyone can be a winner with The Independent this week. We've teamed up with Club Med and Rossignol to give away seven fantastic all-inclusive Club Med Ski holidays for two and seven runners-up prizes of Rossignol CUT 9.6 Skis. Plus a SPECIAL OFFER for every reader FREE ski and boot hire when you book your ski holiday direct with Club Med.

With 26 top ski resorts world-wide, Club Med offers the ideal solution for those looking for an all-inclusive, hassle-free ski holiday, so you don't have to worry about unexpected extras! The holiday prize package includes:

- Return flights and transfers from London.
- Full board including wine with meals. • Ski Pass
- Ski tuition (full or half day). • Entertainment. • Insurance.

You could win an all-inclusive holiday at Club Med St Moritz Roi Soleil, which is close to the cosmopolitan resort of St Moritz in Switzerland. The high altitude and north facing location offers more than 400km of runs and after an invigorating days' skiing, return to the hotel and enjoy its excellent leisure facilities including a swimming pool, weights room and sauna.

Adult Prices at St Moritz Roi Soleil start from £715 for 1 week.

Rossignol are giving runners up prizes of seven pairs of CUT 9.6 skis. Worth approximately £200, the CUT 9.6 ski is the ultimate confidence builder offering fun and enjoyment for the athletic skier who wishes to carve turns with precision and control.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect any three tokens in The Independent and Independent on Sunday between Saturday 7th and Friday 13th November and send them together with your completed coupon to 'Independent/Club Med Ski Offer', Ref: 029, Sandylands House, Morecombe, Lancashire LA3 1DG. The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. All entrants will be sent a Club Med Voucher for your 'Free Ski and Boot hire'.

Winners and runners up will be notified in writing, letters will be dispatched on or before Wednesday 25th November 1998. Whether you are travelling as a family, couple, a group of friends or on your own, you'll find Club Med offers something for every age and inclination.

For a brochure call: 01455 852 202 and quote 'Independent Ski'. For direct bookings and enquiries call: 0171 581 1161 (0700 130 0000).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) All entrants and guests must be 18 years old or over. 2) No purchase necessary. Missing tokens can be obtained by sending an SAE to: The Independent, Club Med Offer, 17th Floor, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL before the deadline. 3) The closing date for entries is Wednesday 18th November 1998. The winners will be notified by mail; these letters will be dispatched on Wednesday 25th November 1998 or before. 4) The holidays are as per the Club Med Winter Sid - 98/99 brochure and must be completed by the end of the season covered by this brochure (approx April 1999 depending on destination). 5) The prizes are seven all-inclusive one week holidays for two adults at selected Club Med Villages subject to availability. 6) All holidays may be subject to alteration and change and exclude Christmas, New Year and Easter weeks. 7) The prizes are non transferable and can only be accepted as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8) The seven sets of Rossignol CUT 9.6 skis for the runners up do not include bindings. 9) Photocopies, damaged or defaced tokens will not be accepted. Proof of posting will not confirm entry. We will not accept responsibility for items lost or damaged in the post. 10) Independent Newspapers shall not be liable for any costs, claims, injuries, damages or loss occasioned by any failure, however caused, to fulfil the terms of this promotion. 11) Employees of the independent, their agents and members of their families and households are not eligible to enter. 12) No correspondence will be entered into and the Editors decision is final. Promoter: Club Med.

10/DESIGN

Sharp urban potters

Potters have left their remote cottages behind and traded in the hippy aesthetic to lead professional careers in the city.
By Lesley Jackson

When Bernard Leach chose remote St Ives for his pottery back in 1920, it was because he felt he could be more creative living in the country than in the city. Most pioneer studio potters followed his example. It wasn't until the arrival of Lucie Rie from the Continent in 1938 that the association between craftsmanship and rural living was challenged.

Rie came from Vienna and brought with her an urban aesthetic influenced by the Bauhaus. London was her natural home, and she had no thoughts of leaving it. With the rise of the hippy movement during the late Sixties, craftspeople once again became allied with back-to-the-earth living. If you were starting up as a potter in the early Seventies, the likelihood was that you would go and live in a cottage in a remote part of Wales with a few goats, half a mile down an unmade track.

In the entrepreneurial Eighties these assumptions were questioned. Young arts and crafts makers became aware of the need for their businesses to be economically viable, which meant being close to major centres of population. Now the trendiest place for a maker to be is at the heart of the city, preferably in an unprepossessing, post-industrial building where the rent is low, but the artistic kudos is proportionally high.

Thirty-nine-year-old Kate Malone, one of Britain's leading potters, rests on the cusp of these two movements, with one foot in the hippy camp (she and partner Graham make a pilgrimage to India almost every year), but the other firmly rooted at the nexus of the London contemporary applied art scene. When she was studying ceramics at Bristol in the late Seventies, one of her tutors was Wally Keele, at that time a prime exponent of the back-to-the-earth movement. But in 1983 Kate moved to London for three years at the Royal College of Art and, although the urban experience was disorientating, she soon found it exhilarating and creatively liberating.

Dressed in her tailor-made tweed dungarees, Kate still carries vestiges of an earlier hippy aesthetic, but the apparently laid-back exterior belies a sharp business mind. There is nothing dreamy or amateurish about the way she manages her life and her career. She is respected throughout the crafts world as a consummate professional.

I first met Kate in 1988, two years after she had graduated from the RCA, when she was working in Arts Council-subsidised studio space under the railway arches beneath Hungerford Bridge. Even then she was one to watch, and she already had ambitious plans for a workshop of her own. Kate and her partner Graham Inglesfield, a craftsman-builder, had recently purchased a dilapidated house in Hackney which they were renovating. Instead of establishing a studio in the basement as many potters do, the plan was for Graham to build a large two-storey workshop on a strip of land at the back of the house, which Kate would

use as a gallery - terrazzo flooring on the ground floor and wooden floors upstairs which can be sanded and repolished. Decoration has since been added in the form of a ceramic tile mosaic on the stairs designed by Martin Moore. Kate is quick to point out how privileged she and her fellow potters are to enjoy facilities of this quality.

The first floor houses a small display area, and twice a year the entire building is converted into a gallery for a special open studio exhibition over a long



Kate Malone holding one of the vegetable-like pieces from her latest exhibition, "The Allotment". Richard Oliver

then share with a group of potters, using the rent to cover the mortgage and the overheads.

By 1992 Balls Pond Studio was up and running, complete with artist-designed, wrought-iron balcony and door by Stephen Forster. From this date Kate's career flourished, too. Her pots got larger, her glazes got richer, and the studio went from strength to strength. Much to her satisfaction, she was not alone in her success: everyone who worked there benefited from the momentum

and the critical mass.

A long narrow building with a pitched, top-lit roof and a spiral staircase at one end, Balls Pond Studio is large enough to accommodate eight potters at any one time, although by adopting a time-share system, 12 potters can enjoy the studio's facilities. There are two kilns, one extra-large for firing major commissions. Although the basic construction is no-nonsense concrete blocks, Graham was meticulous about the interior detailing, installing cantilevered workbenches, lots of built-in shelving, low-voltage spotlights throughout - so that the studio can double up as a gallery - terrazzo flooring on the ground floor and wooden floors upstairs which can be sanded and repolished. Decoration has since been added in the form of a ceramic tile mosaic on the stairs designed by Martin Moore. Kate is quick to point out how privileged she and her fellow potters are to enjoy facilities of this quality.

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One of the original aims of the studio was to act as a seedbed for potters beginning their careers

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The first floor houses a small display area, and twice a year the entire building is converted into a gallery for a special open studio exhibition over a long

personally and professionally as well as aesthetically. She sees herself, too, as a "gardener of pots". Her latest exhibition is called "The Allotment" and, along with plump pumpkins and prickly pineapples, it contains a sumptuous array of vessels inspired by pods, seeds and berries.

Last year baby Scarlet popped out of the Malone/Inglesfield greenhouse, which has prompted a few changes. Having spent the last 10 years nurturing the studio and the people in it, as well as creating her own ceramic cornucopia, Kate is anxious to secure a future for the enterprise. The latest plan is for a group of potters from Balls Pond to set up a new communal studio nearby. This would allow Kate the much-needed space for expansion. She is enthusiastic about the idea of Balls Pond Studios spawning another workshop of similar quality. The more, the better, as far as she is concerned.

"The Allotment" opens at the Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham on 14 November and runs until 3 January 1999, followed by a national tour. Balls Pond Studio is open by appointment at 88 Cuford Meads (to the rear of 157 Balls Pond Road), London N1 4DX (tel 0171 254 4037; fax 0171 275 0401). The next studio open days are 5-6 December, 11am-7pm.

EVOLUTIONS IN DESIGN

NO 3: THE SHOWER

THE FIRST refreshing shower fell upon Adam and Eve, unbidden. Thereafter generation began generation until the time of the Noah family's embarkation when the natural shower had become rather too much of a good thing.

After this, records are scanty until the Roman era. Their plumbing arrangements were admirably sophisticated: water, of varying temperature, was channelled to flow down upon the citizens with all the force of gravity. Then came the Dark Ages, which lasted for dirty centuries. Only the advent of a proper water-supply during the Victorian enabled domestic engineers to design a proper shower: in 1857, before electricity, you could use legs to pump a pedal-shower which was hard work. In 1902 the company founded by Thomas Crapper produced an "Independent shower-bath with spray". And in 1910 a bath was marketed with a curved enamel wall at one end, full of spouts. A children's home in Stockport had one, but gave it away because it used too much water.

As our century advanced, showers began appearing in many homes, though the English really preferred a bath. But since the power-shower every-



Victorian showerbath

thing has changed. The ultimate model is to be found at Cedar Falls Health Farm. It is England's only Vichy shower; imported from the French spa. It is magnificent and this is how it works: the showered and attendant enter a tiled room where the former lies on a plastic couch and is oiled by the latter. A long metal arm, studded with nozzles, is swung across the reclining body, whose spine is then pummelled by powerful jets of water. The room fills with steam. Everything becomes misty and dripping. The resultant sensation of decadent well-being is powerful enough to have brought about, without assistance, the rout and total collapse of the Roman Empire.

SUE GAISFORD

FIRST-CLASS DELIVERIES

NO 1: WADDESDON MANOR

SIT DOWN, have a glass of wine and flip through a catalogue. Relax - you're Christmas shopping and here's how to do it in style. Over the next few weeks, we will profile the best of the mail order catalogues offering design-led items for the home.

Waddesdon Manor is managed on behalf of the National Trust by a Rothschild trust. Its first ever mail-order catalogue is a revelation: the traditional offerings of potpourri, soaps and tea towels are nowhere to be seen. In their place is a selection of Rothschild wines, pretty china, well-designed children's toys and an assortment of gifts.

It's slim but classy - all the items are inspired by Waddesdon's own collection: ravishing notecards and boxed coasters inspired by a dark blue, Sévres orange tub, c1745, fluted wine glasses and a handsome, red-leather box decorated with a gold-tooled design taken from an 18th-century French bookbinding in the Waddesdon library.

The visionary behind these imaginative objects is Sara Sweetland, who was given a free hand to redesign the shop and its merchandise by Lord

Rothschild. Sweetland says:

"Rather than produce heavy duty replicas, it makes

sense to capture the spirit of

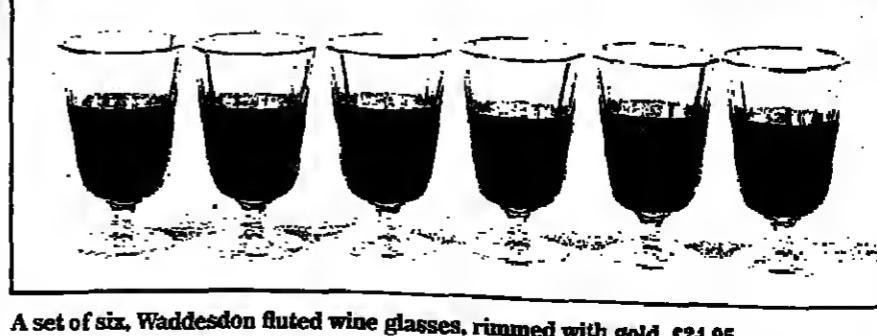
Waddesdon by designing a range of goods taking elements from some of the items on display. I wanted to make the shop as visually exciting as the house itself - with the added buzz that you can buy the things you're seeing. Another mission is to keep the price down."

Best buy: the set of four Sévres table mats, featuring a Sévres porcelain roundel, c1780, in the Tower Room at Waddesdon for £12.95.

Worst buy: the four pin cushions in the shape of tress shoes, £5.75 each.

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, Bucks (01296 651282 ext 241)

AMICIA DE MOURAY



A set of six, Waddesdon fluted wine glasses, rimmed with gold, £24.95

TOKEN 7

THE INDEPENDENT

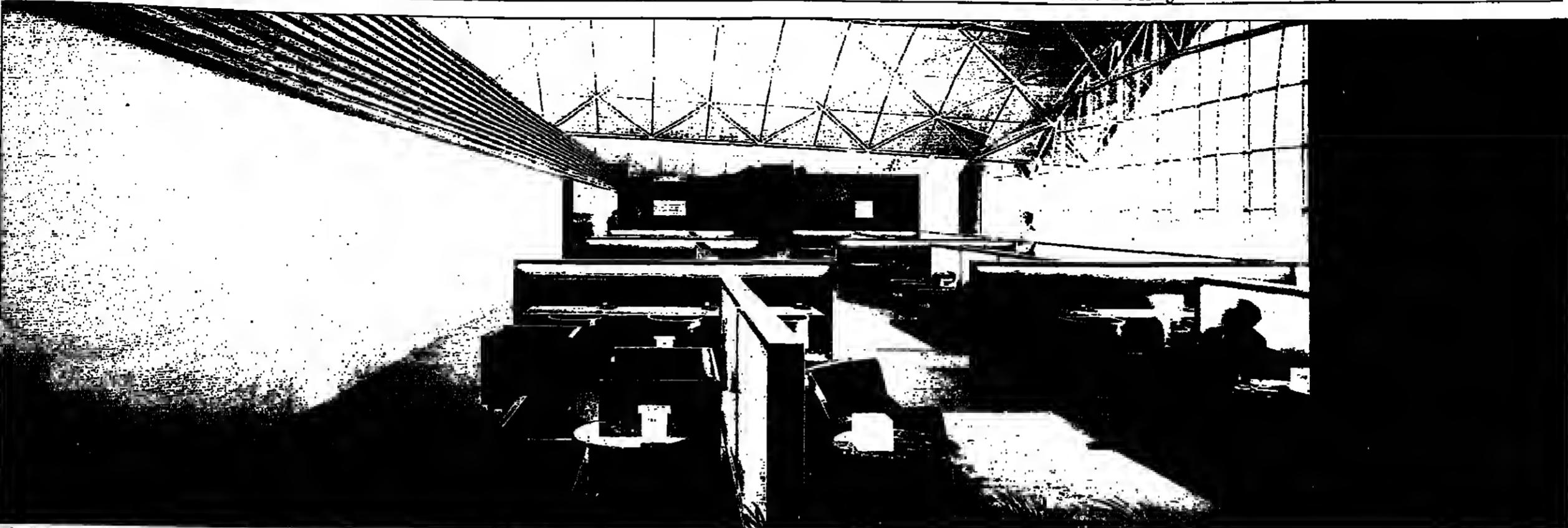


Club Med

10/11/98 150

tters

What is the most important feature of an airport lounge? Comfortable seating. What will travellers be sitting on in Cathay Pacific's new waiting area at Chek Lap Kok? Concrete. And they love it - minimalism has really taken off. By Nonie Niesewand



The Wing: British architect John Pawson has done away with the traditionally cheesy airport lounge to create a clean and serene environment at Chek Lap Kok

©Dennis Gilbert/View

A very smooth transfer...

A long strip of water no wider than a footbath inside the new Cathay Pacific lounge, which opened this week at Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok airport, is the most expensive piece of flooded real estate in the world.

It costs \$10,000 a week to rent that channel within the gigantic 4,000 square metre complex that Cathay Pacific have taken over from the Airports Authority for First Class and Business travellers. They have spent \$200m on a bold new airport lounge called The Wing, designed by minimalist architect John Pawson.

Those who adopt the Tara Palmer Tomkinson attitude to travel - never turn right at the top of the airport stairs - need an extra incentive to keep them loyal to business or first class or to upgrade to first. Now that all the major airlines have taken on board extra-outsize recliner seats, inflight entertainment, designer food and an Old World wine cellar, airport lounges are the next move to keep customer loyalty.

Minimalists never lounge. The very idea of sinking into soft upholstery makes these aesthetes spring to their feet. At home, John Pawson has benches. "For me, a bench is likely to be more satisfactory than a chair because a bench only does one thing, and it's always simple. Chairs are very rarely simple," he explains. The very idea of getting this perfectionist to design the lounge for Cathay Pacific in Hong Kong's new

airport may seem crazy, but at least no-one can argue that Cathay didn't get what they wanted. When a team went from Hong Kong to John Pawson's practice in London two years ago to talk about the jewel in the crown of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, John Pawson made the Cathay executives perch on long concrete benches. Only "the softies" plumped for the big leather pads that he calls cushions. It's been a learning curve for John, who installed in his artful installation of 500 chairs some 20th century classics which he has chosen for comfort - and just one example of his benchmark: the concrete slab seat.

I designed this space which could feel personal to each and every person passing through it. I wanted to offer the international traveller the chance, however fleeting, to feel at home." As the designer of Calvin Klein's flagship shop in Madison Avenue and other shops around the world, John Pawson tames the globe and struggles to stay calm in what he perceives as the chaos of international airports.

The effect is very calming. Pawson is a genius at lighting, using daylight from the top-lit Foster building and diffused artificial light from hidden sources to play upon surfaces. For the first time Pawson uses colour - if you can call the mocha, espresso and cappuccino hues colourful - on capacious club chairs by Hoffman, Liagre and Wegner. But the only pattern he permits is the play of light and water upon hard surfaces.

Now travellers in Cathay Pacific Wings can shower or bathe when they arrive, have a shiatsu massage, get on-line, eat at the noodle bar, graze intermittently in one of the 20th century classic club chairs, or take a cocktail at the Long Bar in the slipstream of jets taking off soundlessly outside.

John Pawson describes Wing as

an "oasis", though to the uninitiated that may seem like the equivalent of joining a fishing expedition in the Gobi desert. You need to experience the quality of space, which is the biggest luxury these days, with carefully thought-out details like the handle-free doors opening smoothly on hidden hinges, light only where it is needed, but always peeling light.

Leaving in a sofa-tub with just a paper-white narcissus and piles of white towels beside a long sleek pool, or showering in a cubicle with water peeling down as if the monsoon had started is all the more luxurious for being so simple. Simplicity is all about refinement and sensuality in the choice of materials.

Because the site is in Norman Foster's terminal, he admits that "it was rather like being asked to design an extension to a cathedral".

Foster's Chek Lap Kok is one of the most beautiful airports in the world. In its vast, open interiors, crowds seem to vanish. The Wing by Pawson relates to Foster's building and gives it a much more intimate human scale, without actually reducing the scale at all.

What that egalitarian and libertarian design highlights under one soaring, glorious roof is that not all air travellers are equal. "Airsides" (as airlines call that no-man's land between the departure gates and flight boarding) needs to be carved up so that gold card travellers who spend on average 45 minutes waiting for flights - and £4,000 for a return flight

first class from Hong Kong to London - feel they are getting good value for money.

No sooner had the Pawson lounge opened than it became the subject of acrimonious debate, though everyone I saw there peacefully inhabited the space, either curled up and massaging their feet, reading papers, playing cards, sleeping, talking, working on lap-tops or eating in one of the noodle bars. John Pawson shrugs off comments about "mausoleums", admits that he can do anything about "too much daylight" bathing the building. Norman Foster spent long time getting it to do just that; any more than he can give them "a roof overhead" (ditto). Foster's high, top-lit roof is the airport's best feature and the Airport Authority certainly resisted any attempt made to tent it.

John Pawson is stung by all those who say it's cold (as in hard surfaces rather than temperatures). You can see why be minds. Minimalism is not sensory deprivation. Watching these hard surfaces come to life with reflections of water swirling like an animated Hockney painting that changes as the sun moves is anything but cold and lifeless.

The huge, back-lit Long Bar stretching 28 metres, that the American artist Dan Flavin would no doubt be pleased to have put his name to, has one of the best views of a city not short of them.

In the First Class restaurant, with its gently tapering water pool, hungry passengers can choose from

a menu of oysters, caviar and sushi as well as hot meals.

"I'm all for water but frankly, it ought to have trout or ducks in it," says Sir Adrian Swire, chairman of the group that owns Cathay Pacific. He is unconvinced about that running water. It takes some nerve to pay those prices to put a strip of real estate under water and then watch business travellers getting their JP Tuds wet when they inadvertently splash into the pool.

Initially a tad apprehensive of this ambitious venture, until he experienced the luxury of space that is beautifully reasoned and immaculately detailed - and comfortable - Sir Adrian is now a convert. "It may take a bit of time, but this is the way forward."

It's been a tough year for the Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific who made a loss of £13.8m over the six months ending 30 June this year, compared to a profit of £24m in the same period last year. The airline blames the Asian crisis and air cargo problems at the new Chek Lap Kok airport as one of the reasons. The fall-off in Japanese travellers and the drop in tourism are also cited.

Would they commission the same architect to come up with the same design today? Peter Stavros, chairman of Swire and Cathay Pacific hesitates only momentarily. "Absolutely. With a few refinements, a little softening around the edges. Pawson wouldn't allow a plant in the place, you know."

These refinements include opening up another level below the cantilevered platform for a lounge with a low ceiling - isn't it astonishing that anyone would value a low ceiling in this age when space is the biggest luxury? - and a smokers' bar called the Runway, which is at present non-smoking.

About a year ago, when Cathay executives visited mock-ups of the Pawson design built in an engineering warehouse, they called for an urgent review. Why no colours, no plants, and so overwhelming in scale, they argued. Pawson added a little deep purple on the Christian Liagre chairs but couldn't be shifted on scale and proportion.

"That's what makes a space feel good to be in, that and the materials," he argued, and won. But at the launch party on 11 November he was cut out of the speeches, which was a shame because he was going to quote Ruskin on the subject of a railway station: "It's the very temple of discomfort, and the only charity that the builder can extend to us is to show us, plainly as may be, how soonest to escape from it."

That, and to remind us how, at the close of the 20th century, he has sought to create something which is everything the railway station in question was not. This project is not just another interior, but a building within a building, and a piece of architecture in its own right.

By stepping out of the white cube, John Pawson is moving into a new territory.

... but still a little rough around the edges

Backstage, technical problems slow things down. By Nonie Niesewand



Outsmarted: Superterminal 1 ©Dennis Gilbert/View

Why?" was the question that caused the computer Hal in 2001: A Space Odyssey to shut down. Now the same question is being asked of HACTL, Hong Kong's Air Cargo Terminal and the largest automated cargo racking system in the world - capable of moving one thousand containers at any given time - which failed to deliver the goods when Hong Kong's new Chek Lap Kok airport opened in July. Two big buildings with the capacity to handle 2.5 million tonnes of cargo per annum - more than twice the capacity of its nearest rival at Heathrow - failed to make the changeover smoothly when the old Kai Tak airport closed. As several days' supply of rotting food and flowers, newspapers and containers built up, the embattled main cargo operator, the new Superterminal 1, shut down for nine days. Dust in the computer has been blamed but there is still a question mark hanging over the ability of the HACTL at Superterminal 1. Was man or machine to blame? The answer lies in a Commission of Enquiry now going on in a politically sensitive arena. Airport Authority chairman Wong Po-yan has accepted the blame for the disastrous opening, and will step down this month together with the entire 15-member authority board and several key executives, including the chief executive, Hank Townsend, who was given overall responsibility for the construction and development of Chek Lap Kok.

Film directors seeking a location in which to film Philip Kerr's novel Gridiron, about a

computer that outsmarts the architect of an "intelligent" building, need look no further than Norman Foster's Superterminal 1. He designed the seven-storey cargo-handling building for HACTL, linked to two levels with the Express Centre, dedicated to express cargo and courier operations, "in layers, like an onion". Superterminal is the largest single automated air cargo ter-

minus in the world, and because the speed and functional efficiency of an air cargo facility depend on the number of access points to the terminal, it has a jaw-dropping facade over two kilometres confronting the new airport. It took two years and nine months to build. At the peak of construction over 2,500 workers were on site. Cargo arrives at the HACTL terminal directly from

the aircraft, where robotic cranes lift them into designated pigeon holes. At its core is a triple-height atrium which brings natural light deep into the building. On the east and west sides, great steel-framed racks pigeonhole cargo for processing. It then passes via bridges to the warehouse where it is unpacked, checked by Customs and Excise and transferred to the storage system for up to two months, or loaded on to trucks. Like a factory production cycle, empty containers fill with new cargo and are loaded on to waiting freight planes. The whole system is controlled by a central computing system (COSAC), developed and marketed by HACTL, which can identify any particular item as soon as the in-bound aircraft leaves its port of origin and tracks it until it is collected.

The Express Centre, which can handle livestock from elephants to whales and precious goods, including racing cars and shipments of diamonds, cash and gold bullion, has two large hydraulic lifts capable of lifting fully loaded 20m long trains. With so much automation, Foster was keen to put a human face on Superterminal 1 by building in facilities for the airport staff, many of whom live on Chek Lap Kok Island.

A gym, three squash courts, four badminton courts and a 25m heated outdoor pool are just some of the perks. There is a rooftop garden planted with mature trees which anyone who has read Gridiron might want to check out as a haven for the next time the computer throws a wobbly.

OFFICE OF THE RAIL REGULATOR
THE RAILWAYS ACT 1993
Licence Exemption Application by
Jackson Civil Engineering Ltd
(the Applicant)
Company Registration Number: 509379
Principal address of the Applicant:
Perimeter Road
Port of Tilbury, Tilbury, Essex RM8 7EH
Directors of the Applicant:
Peter John Andrews
Peter Kenneth Fryer,
Raymond Clive Musson
The Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with section 7(4) of the Railways Act 1993 that he proposes to grant the Applicant an exemption from the requirement to hold a non-passenger licence, which would otherwise be required for the operation of trains (within absolute possession of the track) in connection with certain maintenance activities, on the grounds that it is not appropriate for the full licensing provisions to be applied to such operations. Any person who wishes to make any representation or objection with respect to the proposed exemption should send such representation or objection to:

Ms. Assita Dhami
Licensing and Compliance
Passenger Services Group,
Office of the Rail Regulator, 1 Waterhouse Square,
138-142 Holborn London EC1N 2TQ
not later than 11 December 1998
Dated 13 November 1998 John Swift QC

INSOLVENCY RULES 1996
THE BERKELEY PLATHOUSE CLUB LIMITED
Nature of business: Passer Members Club
Trade classification: 46
Administration Order made: 3 November 1998
MICHAEL JOHN MILLER Administrator
Office holder no: 7099
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Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Metro Hearts

INQUIRIES ACT 1996

WARE GROUP PLC

By Administration Order

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IN THE MATTER OF BALITICA INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

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CHANCERY DIVISION

My life as a fictional character

The artist Sophie Calle spent a week in a telephone booth. Why? Because novelist Paul Auster told her to. By Elisabeth Mahoney

It's the stuff that some men's dreams are made of. A woman you've had your eye on for years offers herself to you. "I will do whatever you tell me," she says, "for up to one year. Nothing is out of bounds - the most important thing for me is to obey you." At this point, most mere mortal males would be reaching for the year-planner. But not if the woman in question is the French artist, Sophie Calle, and you are the American novelist, Paul Auster.

In his 1992 novel, *Leviathan*, Auster included a note in which he thanked Calle for allowing him to mingle fact with fiction in his portrayal of the character; Maria, an artist whose work the narrator describes as "too nutty... too idiosyncratic, too personal to be thought of as belonging to any particular medium or discipline".

This, if you're not familiar with Calle's work, is a pretty spot-on summary. Auster credits his character with some of Calle's more enigmatic art projects from the 1980s: following strangers on the streets of her native city, photographing them from a distance; pursuing one of these strangers to Venice and back again; examining the sleeping habits of strangers she invited to sleep in her bed; calling up every name in an address book she finds to piece together the story of a life; taking a job as a hotel chambermaid to gain access to guests' rooms; the contents of which she secretly photographs.

For such a keen chronicler of strange metropolitan life as Auster, these games on city streets - themselves blinding fact and fiction - proved irresistible. But little can he have guessed how his own narrative would unfold. Some artists would have been flattered by the reference to their work, kept a copy of the novel in the house to show friends - that sort of thing. Not Calle. She decided to do a little fact and fiction mingling of her own, the results of which will go on show as part

of Double Games, a major exhibition of her work opening in Sheffield tomorrow.

First, she set about getting to know Maria better (that's Maria, the fictional character based on herself, you understand). Maria made art of strange, obsessive rituals as Calle does, but she had some fine oddities of her own - restricting herself to foods of one colour on a given day, for example, and living under the spell of one letter of the alphabet. Calle makes quick, funny work of copying this, as if to let the fictional artist know she's an absolute beginner in the idiosyncratic stakes.

Sticking to a rigidly chromatic diet for a week last December, Calle photographed



For such a keen chronicler of strange metropolitan life as Auster, these games proved irresistible

the unappealing offerings before tucking in with matching plastic cutlery. It's hard to say which day looks worse: the white (fish, rice, fromage blanc and milk) or the pink (ham and taramasalata, washed down with strawberry ice cream and rosé wine). But she has the greatest fun with the letter game, dressing up and living life to the letter B, C and W. For B, Calle is transformed into a Bardot-like babe surrounded by cute, furry animals (all beginning with the letter B, of course); for C, she's in a cemetery; and for W she goes for a weekend in Wallonia surrounded by W-inspired objects.

Now on quite intimate terms with Maria, Calle took the fact and fiction game one stage further. "I asked Paul to write the story of a character which I would obey," Calle explains in wonderfully deadpan style, as if this is all completely normal. "Instead of writing about Maria imitating me, I wanted him to say her name was Sophie, that she was 45, lived in Paris and did this and that, which I would obey. I gave him one year of my life."

Unsurprisingly perhaps, Auster didn't take up the chance to take fiction out of the equation. "He didn't do it," says Calle, with the word "wimp" not mentioned, but written across her face, "because it was too big a responsibility." I ask her if she would really have gone through with whatever Auster had scripted. She looks at me as if I am mad. "Yes. It was my proposal. I was ready. But instead he sent me instructions for the

anonymous life, for a year. "Everything about it was hard," admits Calle, "because it was not my natural behaviour; I did it as a job. I did it because I said I would obey. The work's more about how I deal with it - it's more about me than usual and it involved me doing things I don't normally do, like talking to crazy people."

This new work, in loose collaboration with Auster, is indeed different in atmosphere from Calle's previous projects. It's lighter in tone, more playful, and obviously ironic. But like all her work, it involves some risk on the part of the artist and the artwork itself is not one precious object in a gallery, but a long (sometimes painfully so) drawout process. When I ask her why she works in this way, Calle bristles visibly. "I wouldn't enter that level of self-analysis, it's not my job to be my own critic. I just know how things arrive. My work started for personal rather than artistic reasons. After travelling for seven years, I returned to Paris and began following people in the streets because I didn't know what to do with my life, I was lost."

From this aimless wandering

came her first art projects, then Calle hired a private detective to follow and photograph her. After the address book project, she was publicly attacked (by the book's owner and critics alike) for intrusiveness, so her work turned autobiographical, culminating in the new work inspired by Auster's novel.

Through it all, there's a thread of voyeurism and impropriety, fact and fiction, sadism and masochism. It's as if Calle, like some latter-day *fleur de lis* on the streets of Paris, is still chasing the thrill that eludes us in the ennui of our daily lives but which might just lurk around the next dark corner. She's still fascinated by the danger and unpredictability of urban life which took her to the South Bronx in 1980, which is the only time, says Calle, she ever put herself in real danger.

"I asked people to take me wherever they wanted in what was thought of as the most dangerous place I could go. One man told me to give him my money. He acted very nicely

and I handed it to him willingly. He left me enough to get the subway home and then came to the gallery opening." As ever with Calle, fact tends to be stranger than fiction.

Double Games opens tomorrow at Graves Art Gallery and Site Gallery, Sheffield, and runs until 30 January 1999. In addition, a one-day conference discussing the

work of Sophie Calle will be held at Site Gallery on 26 November - call 0114 281 2077 for details. The exhibition will tour to Canford Arts Centre in February



Sophie Calle's installation, cultivating a spot of her own in a New York phone booth

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Surfing the moral sewer

AS DOROTHY Parker allegedly quipped: "Hollywood will suck you when nobody else will." And she didn't mean it as a compliment. But the remark, quoted in *The Black Dahlia*, seems a touch flattering to the moral sewer we observe late Forties Tinseltown and Los Angeles to have been.

Directed by Mark Alfreds, this Method and Madness production is a highly dexterous and involving stage adaption of James Ellroy's testosterone-charged latrine-trawl of an LAPD novel. As you watch it, though, you can't help wondering why the movies didn't get here first.

The book is considerably more grim than Ellroy's *LA Confidential* which was a huge screen hit. After all, what could be more photogenic or dryly self-referential than the sequence in which, while the HOLLYWOOD sign on Mt Lee is being topped of its final syllable, the demolition work in the area uncovers the stomach-turning

surround, surmounted by a Hollywood billboard that lights up like some electronic advent calendar with whatever symbols (Picasso paintings, stuffed dogs, photographs of Betty etc.) are needed for a scene.

Moving at the speed of light, or, anyway, of a lightning switch from, say, a lesbian bar to a Tijuana cell to a red-neon bathed sleazy motel room, the production makes no concessions to the slow-witted.

The start, for example, is theatrically thrilling - a boxing match which keeps being freeze-framed for dramatised recapitulations of what led up to it - and is a long sequence that really shows off the razor sharp reflexes and co-ordination of this company.

Alfreds and his crack ensemble create a tremendous sense of the driveliness with which Elliot Glurilarocca's nerved-up Bucky conducts his inquiries. Peter McKintosh's resourceful set places the action in a permanent locker room

tated by their own family history - recur here, with many cynical twists.

Theatre's tendency towards non-naturalism enables Alfreds to depict the motel room as a psychic diagram of Bucky's perverse compulsion to confront bed mates with the dead Betty. The set's walls of lockers are used, with versatile artistic flair, to emblemise the various disclosures, as when they magically open like a warped Aladdin's cave to reveal the murderer's many jars of pickled human remains.

Two old ladies walked out towards the end of the performance during a graphic description of the killing. Odd, because they had survived quite a bit by that stage, including talk of a cop vengefully blinding prostitutes by rubbing his syphilitic penis in their eyes. Me, I was glued to my seat.

PAUL TAYLOR

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The architecture of life

THE YOUNG guide said: "You are my group and I am your leader." We felt a bit like berried schoolchildren, but he was charming and blond and anyway it was exciting to find ourselves in the British Library after hours to find - what? We were on the thrilling brink of the unknown.

There were 500 of us, divided into carefully marshalled platoons, as we entered the building's calm, contemplative interior. We even included the architect, Sir Colin St John Wilson, who had watched a rehearsal and had been so enthused at seeing his building transformed that he had returned for a second helping.

The American choreographer Stephen Koplowitz's *Babel Index* is a site-specific performance on a grand scale. Commissioned by Dance Umbrella, it requires a bogging orchestra of people in different places at the same

time. Like Koplowitz's *Grand Canyon* at the Natural History Museum two years ago, *Babel Index* takes inspiration from the building's physical design and invokes its mission as a storehouse of human knowledge.

Outside in the forecourt, 11 draped figures stand on pedestals, like caryatids. They mould themselves in slow shapes and hold open books, light shining from the pages; a visual pun intended to suggest medieval illuminated texts and glowing computer screens. Inside, the rest of the 54 dancers, dressed in Craig Givens's red workers' suits, are deployed on two levels, for viewing by the promenading spectators.

The opening dance, replicated on both floors, each shows 12 dancers, sitting still, then slowly expanding into action, as the taped sound of breathing is replaced by whispering voices, then Jonathan Stone's music.

We might be watching the stirring of life, the beginning of speech. And with the curves and lines of the contrapuntal bodies against a floor like parchment, writing is being created before our eyes.

The second section, a collection of separate simultaneous events, is not entirely identical on the two floors, so it is not possible for anyone to see everything. You wander around and find a sextet positioned on a flight of stairs, passing books up and down, as though knowledge is being transferred through the ages. Another group is surrounded by newsprint; a lone man lurches from side to side at the top of a vertiginous *Babel* tower, gath-

ering invisible languages; and in the distance, on a high balcony, stands a line of singers.

Considered as isolated movement, the choreography is semaphoric and simplistic, but it makes an impact in its massed patterns.

This applies especially to the final section, watched by everyone from the entrance hall, as the dancers on three balconies unfurl from a spiral staircase like a scroll. They spread out and sway - a Mexican wave. Arms spike out in star shapes and brandish books the way Mao Tse Tung's crowds did, except this is a populace indoctrinated by the freedom of learning. By now the climax has arrived, with projections of script and human images. And when everything stops you have experienced something unique: a beautiful building, honoured, celebrated, and brought to unexpected life.

NADINE MEUNIER

Grr! She's w

REVIEW

THE FRIDAY REVIEW
The Independent 13 November 1998

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MUSIC

Too good to be forgotten

Joe Harriott was one of the great jazz innovators of the Sixties, fit to rank with the heavyweights. So why isn't he as famous as John Coltrane? Because he was invisible. By Kevin Le Gendre

In Britain's black community, 1998 will be remembered as the year of the Windrush anniversary celebrations. Books, TV programmes and gala performances have all marked 50 years of a Caribbean presence in the UK. Pioneers from sport, education and literature have been duly honored. Yet some important figures in the immigrant experience have been overlooked.

The name Joe Harriott means little to most black Britons. This is a poignant irony considering that Harriott was one of the greatest jazz musicians the UK has known, and that 1998, the Windrush year, is the 25th anniversary of his death.

Born into poverty in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1923, Harriott was brought up at the famous Alpha orphanage in the city. Run by strict nuns, Alpha became an unofficial music academy of the highest order, producing some of the most important musicians in Jamaican history, including Tommy McCook and Doo Drummond of the Skatalites. After leaving Alpha a skilled clarinettist and alto saxophonist, he worked his way into Jamaican big bands such as Ossie Da Costa's, who brought him to London in 1951. Harriott made an immediate impact on his arrival, and in 1953 he put his own group together - a racially integrated one featuring the fine St Vincent-born trumpeter, Shake Keane.

The early Fifties was an exciting time in jazz. In the States, the frenetic, rhythmically complex style of bebop was giving way to the nuances of modern jazz. Charlie Parker, the man who had led the hop revolution in the Forties, was entering his twilight and the innovations of Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Ornette Coleman were only half a decade away. Harriott had absorbed Parker's innovations but established his own musical identity.

"He had his particular style," says Coleridge Goode, a Jamaican bassist who played with Stephane Grappelli and Django Reinhardt before joining Harriott. "He used the music of the times but he gave it his own inflections. He was very forceful, very decisive in his playing. Other musicians were quick to spot his strong personality. "This independent, West Indian streak was very marked in him and contributed to his writing, which is very original," says Michael Garrick, a pianist whose trio shared the bill with Harriott's quintet at the Marquee Club. "Joe's compositions, such as 'Coda', 'Abstract' or 'Beams', these are unique in music, not just jazz. They have a lot of humour as well as a thrilling jazz quality."

So much for Harriott the musician - what of the man? "He was very bright, very argumentative," recalls Garrick, who would later record a series of jazz and poetry albums with Harriott and writers such as Laurie Lee. "He could either be seriously argumentative or have great fun with it - he had an excellent way of twisting words." Harriott had all the prerequisites of a star: charisma, buoyancy and talent.

In 1960, he confirmed his originality in startling fashion with the album, *Freeform*, most of which was written from a hospital bed after he contracted tuberculosis. It was a starkly abstract work making little use of set harmonic sequences and came at a time when jazz was in a state of flux,



Harriott had all the prerequisites of a star: charisma, buoyancy and talent

progressive players taking the music into hitherto uncharted territory. In the previous year Miles Davis had explored the possibilities of modal composition with *Kind Of Blue*, John Coltrane had given the tenor sax a new emotional intensity with *Giant Steps* and Ornette Coleman had shocked the jazz establishment with *The Shape Of Jazz To Come*.

'Joe broke things up – he wanted the music to convey specific feelings, paint pictures'

Despite the image that jazz had as a music of free expression, it was shot through with divisions and factions. Traditionalists and modernists didn't mix. Harriott's music was problematical in that it didn't fall into any of these camps. Not everybody dug it, as Coleridge Goode recalls: "A lot of the musicians would scoff at what we were doing... Joe had a concept of breaking things up and not playing in a strict

tempo. He wanted the music to convey specific feelings, to paint pictures with sound."

The mid-Sixties saw Harriott break more new ground with Calcutta-born John Mayer, a symphonic composer who won a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy. Arriving in England in 1962, he worked regularly with classical musicians, then met Dennis Preston, a producer at EMI who suggested his quintet collaborate with Harriott to develop an innovative fusion of Indian ragas and jazz.

"Joe was the best. The parallel between his ideas and mine were perfect," says Mayer. "Joe was a pioneer in putting forward his freeform jazz. That's the reason he tackled the Indo-Jazz fusions so well – he had already broken away from the structure of the chord sequence."

The musical chemistry between the two was extremely fruitful, but what was Harriott like to work with? "Bloody difficult," laughs Mayer. "He was sometimes very stubborn. We argued about everything: sometimes musical things, then how should we go on the bloody coach to a gig. He was difficult." This is said with affection.

His musicality was evident in his

referrals

However, despite the critical acclaim lavished on *Indo-Jazz Fusions*, and its impact on subsequent generations of both rock and jazz musicians, Harriott's profile stayed at a modest level. The BBC's Jazz 625 would always prioritise visiting American players, while, among home-grown musicians, Ronnie Scott, Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth were al-

'He was very bright, very argumentative – he had an excellent way of twisting words'

ways more effectively marketed than Harriott, a Jamaican with an uncompromising reputation.

"He was fiercely proud. He wouldn't play the honking-in game. He wouldn't hang around at Ronnie Scott's to be seen," explains Michael Garrick. "He thought himself above all that, so he didn't make any effort to become one of the lads, and that's very important in British jazz... you're either in with

the people or you're out. He was never in."

There was also the question of identity. While African-American musicians were treated like stars, Caribbean players with British citizenship were a different proposition.

"If you were John Coltrane, it was you're an American player, you must be great!" explains John Mayer. "Joe was just as good as them but he came from the colonies. And in those days, the Caribbean and India were still considered British. We'd just got our independence, but it was too soon for us to just be... well, ourselves."

Harriott had a flat in Clifton Hill, St John's Wood, for most of his life, fond of a drink and known to gamble, but no hellraiser. "He lived very simply," recalls Sharon Atkin, his common-law wife. "There was a record player and records in his flat – mostly Charlie Parker and some Sonny Stitt. He had one photograph in his whole flat – of Charlie Parker. He liked to play billiards in the Clifton pub next door. He'd go in there and play piano because they had a room with a fire and an upright. So sometimes I'd drag him in there and make him play." Like his contemporary, Ronnie Scott, he had children by different women and didn't seem to crave the security of a nuclear family.

In the early Seventies, Harriott's career declined. Jazz had lost a great deal of its younger audience to rock. Demoralised and in poor health, Harriott left London to tour. In Southampton, he fell ill and was admitted to hospital. In October 1972, he was diagnosed with advanced cancer of the spine. He never came out of hospital.

Verve records have just re-issued *Indo-Jazz Fusions*, *Freeform* and *Abstract*. They all provide ample evidence of Harriott's virtuosity and are crucial to British jazz heritage. But people have known that for years. So why has it taken so long for these reissues? The thorny issue of Harriott's "invisibility" surfaces again.

When Courtney Pine, the saxophonist of Jamaican descent, emerged as an exciting new voice in British jazz, he frequently dropped Joe Harriott's name as an influence. Yet nobody pushed for his classic albums to be re-promoted. From a marketing point of view, much could have been made of the artistic and cultural continuity between Harriott and Pine. Nothing happened.

With hindsight, it's clear that the music industry never really appreciated his brilliance. In many ways, Joe Harriott was before his time, part of a generation of Caribbean immigrants for whom Britain wasn't ready. Had he made music in the late Seventies or early Eighties, his career would have coincided with the emergence of a distinct Black British identity, and he may have found more receptive audiences and record companies. Instead, he was caught in a post-Empire no man's land and destined for underachievement, despite the reverence of other musicians.

"I have recordings of Joe in people's front rooms, just blowing on standards," comments Michael Garrick. "I play them on summer jazz courses that I teach as a blindfold test and they all say it must be someone as good as Charlie Parker. It's a Joe Harriott."

'Freeform', 'Abstract' and 'Indo-Jazz Fusions' are on Verve Records. *'Swingin' High'* is on Cadillac.

Grrr! She's wonderful

IT'S a strange yet time-honoured ritual: the promoter spends thousands hiring the hall and flying in the band; the audience arrives in a heady state of expectation, and then some bloke in a pony tail at the sound desk mucks it all up. Or at least that was the view from Row G. To be fair to the bloke, the musicians must take a fair share of the blame themselves.

We were all probably hoping that pianist Geri Allen's trio would feature bassist Buster Williams and drummer Lenny White from her marvellous album *The Gathering*. Instead we got two sturdy yeomen who were eminently capable but somewhat lacking in subtlety. Perhaps as a result, Allen chose to concentrate on heavily percussive, blues-based themes rather than pell-mell keyboard meditations. As she pounded her way through the set, individual notes disappeared in a backwash of overtones, the volume levels got louder, and one became unmistakably aware, as if in a kind of out-of-body experience, that the in-

REVIEW

GERI ALLEN TRIO /
NIKKI YEOH
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
LONDON

Strummers of the trio were ac-

tually an undifferentiated din.

It started off fine, with the sprung rhythm of the album's title track ushering in a series of dazzling improvisations at the keyboard that more than justified Allen's reputation. True, you couldn't actually hear her very well, and the drums sounded like biscuit tin lids, but surely, one thought, the hole in the ponytail would soon sort that out?

He didn't, and while there was no doubt Allen's technique – or her ability to swing as hard as anyone – it remained deeply frustrating.

If the experience of Allen

and her trio was strange, the young British pianist and rising star Nikki Yeo, who opened with a solo set, was just bonkers. Scheduled for 45 minutes, she played for 70 and al-

most had to be hauled off the stage with a hook. Though Yeo has yet to learn that less can mean more, her improvisations contained enough shards of brilliance to last a career over mind an opening act, but they were mixed in with quite a lot of dross, too.

Her great appeal is that

she sounds like nobody else,

and her spiky, oddball per-

sonality is engaging and irri-

tating at the same time.

Though she took a while to

warm up, the second half hour of her set was wonderful. Then, just when you were ready to admit her genius, however wayward, she went and dedicated the performance, indeed the whole evening, to the glory of God. Bah!

But if God was in the QEH on Tuesday night (and not at the RFE, listening to Dave Brubeck), he must have been invited to a special concert where they will meet Brubeck and chew the cud over old times – an image, I suspect, somewhat akin to Room 101 for anyone without a love of jazz.

His quartet this evening in-

cluded fine British bassist Alec

No blues. So what

REVIEW

DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

Dankworth and drummer

Randy Jones. But everyone

was blown away by Bobby

Millettello, a stunning alto sax-

ophonist and flautist and the

kind of musician it is truly an

honour to hear – steeped in the

entire history of the music, a

master of his instruments at

any tempo, imaginative and in-

spired throughout every mo-

ment of the concert.

His sound was rooted in

bebop, but one moment it

came with a soft Lee Konitz fit,

the next a buzz of Sambo-

style static. His rapport with

the leader was special, too.

They dueted, Baroque-style,

like two lines from a Goldberg

Variation.

Wynton Marsalis likes to

define jazz as 'blues and

swing'. Dave Brubeck has

done very well for almost 50

years without showing much

interest in either. But he is fas-
cinated by a wider definition of
harmony and rhythm, using his
classical education yet pro-
ducing a music that trembles
with the spontaneity that is
jazz's distinguishing feature.

He sounded much more incisive and excited about his own playing in the secoo half (perhaps because the piano had been tuned during the inter-
val) and it is surely a sign of this man's ingenuity that he can play a single anthem over and over and make it sound like the best performance imaginable every time.

He closed the second set with the inevitable "Take Five", but it sounded like magic, Millettello producing an ethereal stream-of-consciousness. Brubeck darting around the keyboard with breathtaking resourcefulness. It took two encores before an emotional audience would go home.

Brubeck prepared for the next city. At 77, most of us would be happy if we could still tie our own shoelaces.

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A mere three score and ten

As Kurt Masur takes the reins at the LPO, he joins the swelling ranks of London's seventysomething maestros.

And they're all young at heart. By Rob Cowan

It seems that London in the new Millennium is set to become the European centre for septuagenarian maestros. Last year the London Symphony Orchestra lit 70th birthday candles for Sir Colin Davis; next year, the Philharmonia will do the same for Christoph von Dohnányi, and when German-born Kurt Masur takes to the rostrum as principal conductor-designate of the London Philharmonic on 19 November, he will be 70 years and four months old. Bernard Haitink, another notable near-septuagenarian, keeps the London Philharmonic's presidency.

All four conductors view repertoire innovation from a secure bedrock of European musical tradition, and all bring with them a wealthy, weathered – and dare I say – youthful musicality. Masur is among the finest living exponents of Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Liszt and Reger. He will be in full office from the season 2000/2001, having first conducted the orchestra back in 1987 – coincidentally, in Grieg's incidental music for *Pearl Fisherman*, the very work that he is due to perform at the Royal Festival Hall next Thursday.

I wondered how the new appointment might affect the London Philharmonic's current profile. "Masur is a multinational personality who is very keen on the idea of musical exploration," says the orchestra's chief executive and artistic director, Serge Dorny. "That should enable us to maximise our educational and intercultural plans." These include forging creative links among disparate cultural groups, organising workshops (about 150 a year), creating child-friendly sound-zones while mums and dads attend the concert (principally at the Royal Festival Hall) and launching ticket subsidies in deprived areas. "I view the orchestra like a precious stone," says Dorny. "If you turn it around, you will see unexpected reflections that add to its value and attractiveness."

Masur's contribution to the orchestra or philosophical ideas. Attending a concert should mean more than just listening to music for a couple of hours, then going home. We have a duty to educate our audiences, help them understand better." Significant orchestral works with narrators, such as Honegger's *Jean de Arc at the Stake* and Franck's *Psalm*, have already won Masur considerable praise, and possible future plans for London include a Beethoven symphony cycle based on the latest textual sources, complete with open discussions and public discourses.

"At one particular Beethoven concert in New York, we talked to the audience before the event," he recalls, "but just as the programme was about to begin, we suggested continuing the discussion after the concert as well. Would you believe that 500 people stayed? They didn't want to go home!" New music is another priority, preferably served within a menu of older repertory. The idea is to listen afresh to everything.

Like most accomplished conductors, Kurt Masur is an enemy of routine and laziness. "People's tastes are changing, but not all those changes are for the good," he says emphatically. "For example, I would not condone listening to Beethoven 'in the style of Mantovani' – I mean, five minutes of a symphony, or the best Tchaikovsky melodies condensed into 10 minutes." In New York, he has his work cut out elevating Tchaikovsky from "pop" concert status to serious symphonist, largely by programming all six numbered symphonies in sequence. It was worth the effort. "I once asked the revered Russian conductor Evgeny Mravinsky how he might battle against routine," Masur said, smiling, "especially in works that he played again and again on tour. That's very easy," Mravinsky told me, "if I sense the orchestra is playing mechanically, that they feel they know everything, then we do three

rehearsals: we discover the beauty

again. And that type of discovery is just as important for an audience."

A born democrat, Masur none the less appreciates the positive application of musical authority, especially when it comes to recording. He cites Herbert von Karajan: "Everybody had the power that he wielded." But he himself once said to me, "I don't know why they criticise me for that. Only the orchestra knows when we play a piece so well that we want to document it in a recording."

In other words, it was Karajan and

the Berlin Philharmonic who decided when to record, not the record company. "What usually happens is that the company asks for a Beethoven symphony cycle; the conductor complains that the orchestra isn't yet familiar with, say, the *Pastoral Symphony*, and then some executive says, 'That's all right, you just rehearse it and then record it.' I can promise you that Karajan's approach is right."

Kurt Masur is, above all, a profoundly compassionate man. He showed unprecedented courage

when, in Leipzig in 1989, a visit from Mikhail Gorbachev triggered a series of public protests and he threw open the doors of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Hall for what turned out to be the first open public forum in the GDR for 40 years. "Of course, I had never done this kind of thing before," he admits modestly. "But it did show how much the reputation of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Orchestra and principal conductor Kurt Masur was in the minds of everybody, even of those who were not concertgoers. It showed that they could ac-

tually trust us – and at that time, trust was all we asked for. If music is able to achieve that, then it's already enough for me. You know, I have this recurring dream. I imagine a concert hall that could accommodate all the people of the world, where we could play great music and unite them..." – he stops for moment, thinks, and then adds – "for at least two hours".

Kurt Masur conducts the LPO at the RFH, London (bookings: 0171-960 4242) on 19 and 27 November

when, in Leipzig in 1989, a visit from Mikhail Gorbachev triggered a series of public protests and he threw open the doors of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Hall for what turned out to be the first open public forum in the GDR for 40 years. "Of course, I had never done this kind of thing before," he admits modestly. "But it did show how much the reputation of the Gewandhaus (cloth hall) Orchestra and principal conductor Kurt Masur was in the minds of everybody, even of those who were not concertgoers. It showed that they could ac-

ON THE AIR

ANTHONY PAYNE

THE TWO giants of early 20th century Scandinavian music, Nielsen and Sibelius, have not achieved equal success outside their native countries. Although Nielsen once had the distinction of being crowned Scandinavia's greatest composer, he did not achieve international recognition until after the Second World War, by which time Sibelius was being performed and recorded abroad with the regularity of a classic master.

The reasons for this are perhaps similar to those that have been said to account for the unjust neglect of much of Haydn's work as opposed to Mozart's. Their is an element of romantic subjectivity in Mozart which Haydn's intellectual shrewdness could not admit. Similarly, there is a balance of heart and mind in

Nielsen which does not find it as easy to attract audiences as Sibelius' powerfully suppressed romanticism.

Few nowdays would be willing to argue the superiority of either great composer over the other, but the concert and recorded repertoires have yet to recognise their equality, and events like BBC Radio 3's Nielsen Festival last week are still needed to restore the balance. Other arts deserve life. Nielsen once said, music is life, and under the title *Music as Life*, Osamu Vanska and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra surveyed the complete symphonic canon over four evenings. These included some magnificently spirited performances through which it could truly be said the high current of Nielsen's creative life force continually flowed. The titanic struggles which erupt in the last three symphonies were exhilaratingly char-

acterised, and placed in masterfully controlled overall structures. Taut and concentrated though these interpretations were, there was still room for expansion, including space for a tenderness which while utter-

Fellow Scandinavian Sibelius is quoted as saying to Nielsen:
'I don't reach as high as your ankles'

ly unsentimental was most touching.

As preparation for the crowning

glory of the cycle – a shattering performance on Monday of the mighty Fifth Symphony – there was on Saturday afternoon a specially com-

misioned fantasy about the work which did an eloquent job in charting its unique emotional and intellectual territory. Time was when Radio 3, or its equivalent, presented programmes every week which seriously discussed a piece of music. For whatever reason, such broadcasts became increasingly rare. Perhaps the upper echelons at the BBC felt that listeners did not want the equivalent of a lecture. Was the word *elitist* bandied about? I think I'll scream if I hear that word traduced much more. It involves the maintenance of high standards not condescension.

There are many that I know regret the loss of programmes like Antony Hopkins' *Talking About Music*, and in an era obsessed with soundbites, help with listening to long symphonic spans can be a useful antidote. It does not have to be

aimed above the heads of the technically uninitiated, and this programme proved how musical processes can be verbalised in terms of life experience.

Nielsen's own mordant written and spoken phrases, for instance, were drawn upon with great profit. At the beginning of the Fifth Symphony he felt as if he was walking in the countryside, ideas occurred to him without conscious effort as if concerning vegetative nature; later more conscious effort enabled him to come to grips with existence's warring elements. Such descriptions need to be acutely focused if naivety is to be avoided, and this programme got it just right. I relished Stephen Johnson's perception that an act of will, out organic evolution, yields the symphony's triumph – a profound thought to be mulled over. More of this kind of thing, please.

transport us, a situation more likely to occur in concert than in the stultifying atmosphere of a recording studio. I wouldn't even attempt to count how many commercial records the Amadeus Quartet have made over the years, but one thing is for sure: few if any display the fervour generated in a performance of the Brahms' *Piano Quintet* with Sir Clifford Curzon, taped live at the Royal Festival Hall back in 1974. High on adrenalin and strong on emotion, all five players lunge at this expansive score with absolute commitment, reaching unprecedented inspirational heights in the slow movement and finale. The same package also includes a genial account of Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, recorded three years earlier.

Choosing a third disc from this batch of BBC *Legends* might have proved difficult

had not been for a bout of flu. Miserable, listless and tucked up in bed, I had the bizarre notion of sampling – via headphones – Respighi's *Pines of Rome* in a 1967 Bournemouth Symphony recording under Constantin Silvestri. By the time I had journeyed past "The Pines of the Appian Way", I felt fit enough to run a marathon. It is quite simply the most stunning account of the *Pines* to have come my way since Toscanini's in the 1950s, and the same CD includes a fine though idiosyncratic performance of Tchaikovsky's troubled *Manfred Symphony*. Perhaps it should be made available on prescription.

Top of the list for many will be Sir John Barbirolli's affectionate saunter through Mahler's epic Third Symphony, taped at Manchester Free Trade Hall in 1969 and featuring contralto Kertis Meyer, the Hallé Ladies Choir, the Boys of Manchester Grammar School and the Hallé Orchestra.

Although far from pristine (the brass in particular have their dicey moments), the "feel" of the performance is precisely right, especially at the centre of the long first movement where Mahler prepares for "summer marching in". The minuetto is limpid and pastel-shaded, the scherzo full of fantasy, and the slow finale, predictably loving. The peroration is overwhelming and when the triumphant closing bars have finally sounded, you enjoy the uncanny (and appropriate) sense of returning home from some idealised dream-world.

Great music-making has the potential to elevate or

In league with the prince of darkness

REVIEW

STRAVINSKY SERIES
BARBICAN
LONDON

tured metres. The theatrical machinations of this chilly little parable – as played out in WH Auden's creepily monochromatic text are rudimentary. Stravinsky's tale, which is its own drama: an intensely physical and yet oddly dispassionate ritual in which the audience, are at once silent watchers and active participants. The *mise en scène* – a study in black and white – sits well with Stravinsky's sense of detachment, abstraction, stylisation.

He might even have imagined *The Soldier's Tale* in this way. An empty space, a row of chairs, a stool, a table, a glass of water. Seven instrumentalists (the London Symphony's finest), a conductor (Michael Tilson Thomas), an "actor" (the excellent Peter Eyre) trooping in, the sheer incongruity of white ties and tails addressing what is essentially a mystery play with klezmer band accompaniment – all scrubby, weathered, earth tones and frac-



Michael Tilson Thomas: cajoling a mighty handful of players

score, where the ubiquitous solo horn opens up one magic casement after another; an exquisite gaudiness must prevail.

Refinement, but not at the expense of the primary colours. Tilson Thomas knows that better than most. Pagan and precious do not mix. And so the wash of string tremolandi descending like a veil over the penultimate scene of

tality of the material, not least, of course, those all-singing, all-dancing folk tunes. I cannot remember when I last heard a more virtuosic account than the LSO gave us here.

Petrushka and Pulcinella were a most companionable pairing for this second concert of the series. The latter, of course, "paid homage" to Perogeski while robbing him blind. But how charmingly, how wittily Stravinsky the born-again classicist, reinvented this music, unlike instrumentation and refracted harmonies, further breaking at the happy alliance of courtly grace and courtyard horseplay.

A dodgy mezzo, Ruby Philogene, plainly out of kilter with the style (the elegant tenor Kenneth Turver, and the rapt bass David Wilson-Johnson caught it well enough), somewhat upset the balance of this otherwise engaging rendition of the complete score. But we were not at a loss for stage pictures. And there was Ode, Stravinsky's beautiful and rarely performed tripartite, its middle section originally intended to underscore the hunting-scene of Robert Stevenson's Hollywood film of Broto's *Jane Eyre*. Imagine that.

EDWARD SECKERSON

THE COMPACT COLLECTION

ROB COWAN ON THE WEEK'S CD RELEASES

I HAVE often wondered how our critical faculties would react if all the radio archives across the world were to pool their resources and flood the CD market with exciting live historic recordings. Would suddenly make over the years, but one thing is for sure: few if any display the fervour generated in a performance of the Brahms' *Piano Quintet* with Sir Clifford Curzon, taped live at the Royal Festival Hall back in 1974. High on adrenalin and strong on emotion, all five players lunge at this expansive score with absolute commitment, reaching unprecedented inspirational heights in the slow movement and finale. The same package also includes a genial account of Schubert's *Trout Quintet*, recorded three years earlier.

Well, it could certainly happen – and BBC Music's long-awaited *Legends* CDs follow a trend that has already gained considerable momentum throughout the rest of Europe. Production values on the new series are high; the presentation is upbeat, the annotation is informative and well written, and the technical restoration mostly excellent. Initial choices have been judicious, repertoire-wise, centring for the most part on exceptional performances in better-than-average sound.

Top of the list for many will be Sir John Barbirolli's affectionate saunter through Mahler's epic Third Symphony, taped at Manchester Free Trade Hall in 1969 and featuring contralto Kertis Meyer, the Hallé Ladies Choir, the Boys of Manchester Grammar School and the Hallé Orchestra.

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Great music-making has the potential to elevate or

All on the BBC Legends label in the upper mid price range: Mahler/Barbirolli: BCCL 4004-2 (2 discs); Brahms, Schubert/Curzon, Amadeus Quartet: BCCL 4009-2 (1 disc plus bonus CD); Tchaikovsky, Respighi/Silvestri: BCCL 4007-2.

Madness thy name is Boris

In Francesca Zambello's *Boris Godunov* at ENO, Russia's past is its present. By Edward Seckerson

IT'S THE Hells we hear first, the bells that toll for Mother Russia, past, present, and future. For whichever way you look at Francesca Zambello's tremendous new production of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, Russia's past, present and future are one. "The opera takes place in Russia's Time of Troubles," reads the programme synopsis. Which is then, which is now. In the grimy neatherworld of Hildegard Bechtler's brutalist designs, you almost don't notice what the people wear. They are anonymous. They are what they always were: puppets of the State - poor, down-trodden, long-suffering, easily hought. Rent-a-crowd. When first we see them, they are all gathered outside the "Novodevichy Monastery", urging Boris - with a little encouragement from the grey-suited, baton-wielding secret police - to take the Tsar's throne. Heavy ironwork bears down on them, a cold grey light illuminates monochrome images of a polluted landscape.

But then comes an extraordinary moment. Behind the iron grills, and bathed in the warm rosy glow of history, advancing pilgrims bear

candles, a glimpse, a flashback of Russia's past. And a forecast of the coronation, where the stage opens up to its full depth like an empty gallery space whose main installation is a burnished gold wall upon which hang icon-like portraits of political dealers peering out through a mess of wiring. A video monitor hangs incongruously to one side. Boris is wheeled in on a moveable dais, his portrait emblazoned behind him. He wears the formal three-piece suit of today, an ornate crucifix his only concession to the past. Family and officials around him are dressed in the gold-embossed splendour of traditional 16th-century vestments. Past and present collide, but nothing changes. And throughout this teeming chronicle that is Mussorgsky's great opera - given here (with one significant addition) in its stark and uncompromising original version - there is but one witness, that enduring symbol of Russian folklore: the Simpleton, the wise fool. Zambello gives him rare prominence; she gives him an umpire's chair from which he is all-seeing, all-knowing.

Zambello is an exciting director. She has a natural feel for the epic sprawl. She loves the open stage. This show is literally manhandled from one scene to the next, token scenery unceremoniously pushed and dragged to and out of the action. Her crowd-control is outstanding: she can turn the operatic cliché - the covering chorus with outstretched hands - into a thrilling frozen tableau; she can have Boris disappearing into a sea of those same hands like a drowning man; she can take your breath away with the seemingly obvious. Like Boris delivering his great monologue, "I stand supreme in power", astride the map of his domains. Like the unsettling scene between Boris and the odious Prince Shuisky (an oily Robert Tear) played out here like a burlesque between two madmen keeping up appearances. It is Shuisky who literally opens the door to Boris's nightmare at the close of that scene. It is the Simpleton - Boris's conscience - who comes through it, an apparition of the murdered Dmitry. Why has no one thought of that before?



John Tomlinson: a Boris with all the authority and operatic extravagance of a bygone age

Laurie Lewis

John Tomlinson plays Boris with all the authority and operatic extravagance of a bygone age. But his whole demeanour suggests a thoroughly modern madness - like Yeltsin on a bad day. Call it melodrama, if you like, but it rings horribly true. There are stand-out performances all around him: John Connell's Pimen, Jeremy White's Valaam, John Daszak's Grigory,

Susan Grittton's Xenia, Timothy Robinson's Simpleton, Della Jones, no less, overripe in every respect as the Inkeeper. But collective spirit counts for more than individual worth in a piece like this, and ENO's music director Paul Daniel, responding in kind to the sheer weight of history conveyed in Mussorgsky's grave and ruthlessly economical score, displayed compelling leadership.

This is an opera about a people. And the people - as portrayed in all their complexities by the seething ranks of the ENO chorus - were magnificent. Small wonder Daniel and Zambello chose to add the Krony Revolution scene - one of the great virtuous choral scenes of all time - to Mussorgsky's 1869 version. No sooner is Boris dead and his heir despatched than angry mobs

haemorrhage on to the stage. The arrival of Dmitry, the Pretender, in a mirror image of Boris's coronation, signals yet another brave new dawn. Except it isn't, is it? Only the Simpleton knows better: iron grills descend, imprisoning the people once more. The Simpleton puts his head in a noose. Fade to black.

Coliseum, London, tomorrow and Wed (booking: 0171-632 8300)

When two or three Labs gather together

After years of persecution Albanian musicians still suffer shortage and hardship, but their art - and unique Lab singing - thrive. By Michael Church

A YOUNG Albanian violinist told me last week: "You would be mad to go to Vlora - but if you must go, take a gun, because everyone else there has one." This pretty Adriatic port is now the bandit-capital of the Balkans, with huge fortunes being made through drugs, gun-running, and illegal immigration. The racketeers race around in giant Mercedes, the police wear balaclavas and nobody walks in the streets at night.

But Vlora has another claim to fame: Europe's earliest form of polyphony originated there, and can be heard there still. Periodically the singers - descendants of the original Leberia shepherds who created this pentatonic style - come down from the hills to congregate in Vlora. Last Sunday, without a gun but escorted by the formidable young woman who runs the British Council in Tirana, I met and recorded two of these groups.

It is said that when two or three Labs get together they start singing in polyphony, and that was certainly how it seemed in the theatre where the first group, Cipini, were rehearsing: little musical huddles kept developing wherever I looked. Was this, as Lab champions claim,

how Homer's heroes hymned their woes and triumphs? Very possibly. While the lower parts produced a muscular battery of drones, the lead singer wove a melismatic descent above. Each chorus was a hard blast of sound which ended in an abrupt, spine-tingling silence.

I found the second group at Vlora's job-centre, but their music, while following the same tight form, could not have been more different. Where Cipini had been ruggedly virile, Bilbil - "the Nightingales" - were beguilingly sweet, with accompaniment from a shepherd's double-flute. They first sang a love-song, then they did a scarf-dance, then they sang a lament of piercing sadness: a mother's song for the son who had sailed away and never came back.

"We sing with the same spirit Princess Di showed for people in danger," explained their spokesman, without irony. "The spirit of Lab music is social sacrifice." Why was this such an affecting moment? From the window we could see the speedboats waiting to ferry their mighty human cargo to safety or prosperity, while directly over the singers' heads loomed Vlora's unemployment

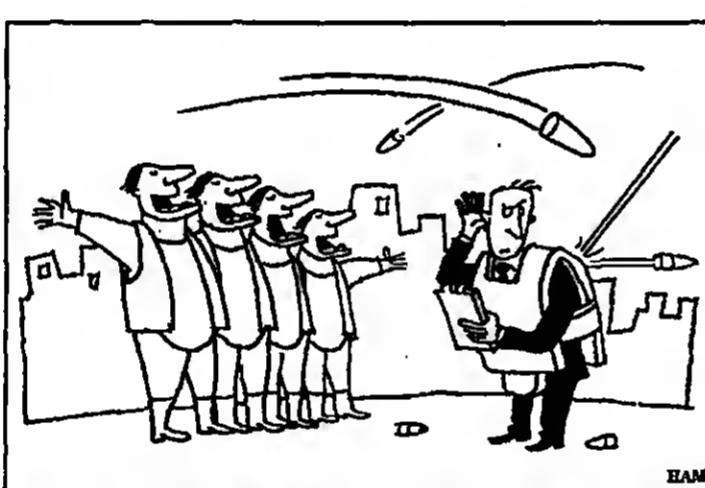


chart. Yet what we were hearing had a timeless nobility and innocence.

Next summer, if the British ambassador to Tirana has his way, these singers will perform in Edinburgh.

Albania, still jittery after the latest attempted coup, is in desperate straits. The 30-year-old prime minister and his team face a land permeated by the mafia, bankrupted by pyramid schemes, awash with weapons and destabilised by war on its border. Almost every educated young person I met was planning to emigrate.

When I asked the minister of culture, what he wanted to achieve, the reply was pitiful. "Even living in this hell, we cannot give up hope. We have to try, by doing small things, to induce change." His initial project is to build a cinema because there is none in the land. So much for the legacy of President Hoxha

academy, I learned the extent of this persecution. The conductor of a choir she sang with in the Seventies was imprisoned for seven years for having the temerity to perform Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, and on his release got a further period of enforced manual labour. So was Baroque music a samizdat pleasure? Cashku sighs. "We had no records, no sheet music. And anyway, if it had been heard, we would have been condemned." According to the academy's vice-rector, violinist Bujar Sykja, "radio was our only window on the culture we were starved of".

When Communism collapsed, says Sykja, "a new world opened for us"; Cashku's conductor can now present Pergolesi whenever he chooses, singers at the Tirana opera can deliver Mozart in German rather than Albanian. But now they are assailed by a different kind of poverty. "Only after 1990 did we know what a good instrument was," says Sykja. Few ever had one - and many had never even heard one. Now they could not afford one.

Hardly any of the excellent players at the opera house own the instruments they play: they borrow them from the state. Tuition at the

academy may be superb, but the pianos are abominable; the only decent one, a gift from the German embassy, remains locked except for special occasions. Sykja and Cashku have accordingly asked me to pass on a plea to Britain's conservatoires: rather than simply throwing out their used records, sheet music, and instruments, could they throw them in the direction of Tirana? "If they will give them to us, we will pay the cost of transporting them," says Sykja.

Musicians are resilient creatures here as anywhere else. Trombonist Romeo Mano - who makes ends meet by translating evangelical literature - told me of the pride the orchestra felt when touring Italy in September. "While television was showing riots in Tirana, we were showing that there were still Albanians devoting their lives to art." But he still thinks he and his family will have to leave, as does his friend the cellist Idris Merzushu. Where will Igo? "I hope to Zagreb. They have a few problems in Croatia, but nothing like ours. These are very dark days for Albania."

Sanctuary in Croatia? That, I fear, puts it all in perspective.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

ENTERTAINMENT: CONCERTS, THEATRE, WHAT'S ON

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Concerts	
35 Wigmore Street London W1H 0BP Director: William Lyne Box Office: 0171 833 2141 Mailing list: 0171 833 2141	HIGMORE HALL London W1H 0BP Box Office: 0171 833 2141 Mailing list: 0171 833 2141
12 Nov 7.30pm	MAX LINDNER piano, PIAF, 1927: Songs from the French Resistance, 1940-45. Soloists: Sophie Stevenson, Sophie Stevenson, Do 19; Liszt: Sonata in 4 hands, Op. 131, Op. 125
14 Nov 7.30pm	FITZWILLIAM QUARTET: Chamber Music Series: 2nd Anniversary Concert. Program: Partita; Partitas; mazurka; 10 & 12; Schubert: String Quartet No. 1 in E flat major, Op. 16; Brahms: Sonatas No. 2 in D minor, Op. 10; Schubert: Impromptu in E flat major, Op. 90; Schubert: Sonatas No. 3 in F major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 4 in F sharp major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 5 in G sharp major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 6 in A major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 7 in B flat major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 8 in C major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 9 in D major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 10 in E major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 11 in F major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 12 in G major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 13 in A major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 14 in B flat major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 15 in C major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 16 in D major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 17 in E major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 18 in F major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 19 in G major, Op. 10; Schubert: Sonatas No. 20 in A major, Op. 10; 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NEW FILMS

BLADE (18)

Director: Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its thin pedigree. West End: *Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

DESTINY (AL MASSIR - LE DESTIN) (NC)

Director: Youssef Chahine
Starring: Nour El Cherif
Chahine's flamboyant period fancy spins the yarn of a liberal sage and his battles with the rigid social order at large in medieval Spain. An implicit critique of Islamic oppression, *Destiny* takes wing with a burst of traditional dance and deep-colour visuals. West End: ICA Cinema

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Director: Terry Gilliam
Starring: Johnny Depp, Benicio Del Toro
Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. Incident, caricature and lurid Seventies fashions are substituted for plot and character, and the film soon descends into narcotic lucidity. The one stand-out is Johnny Depp, who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

FIRE (15)
Director: Deepa Mehta
Starring: Shabana Azmi, Javedi Jaffer, Nandita Das
Mehta's Indian-Canadian co-production mounts a vibrant, and at times potent, attack on the Indian family set-up, with its tale of a fractious New Delhi brood. Strong ensemble playing riffs nicely off Mehta's taboo-bucking script. West End: Curzon Soho

HENRY POOL (18)
Director: Hal Hartley
Starring: James Urbaniak, Parker Posey
See *The Independent Recommends*, right, West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema

HOPE FLOATS (PG)

Director: Forest Whitaker
Starring: Sandra Bullock

Spoonfuls of sugar all round in Whitaker's romantic drama: a winsome piece that turns a loving eye on Sandra Bullock as a down-in-the-dumps ex-beauty queen. Cue Gina Rovandi as a feisty mum, Harry Connick Jr as a bawful handyman, and acre upon acre of bumper-sticker wisdom. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

INSOMNIA (18)

Director: Erik Skjoldbjærg
Starring: Stellan Skarsgård

Dubbed a "film blanc" by its creator, *Insomnia* transplants noir stylings to the landscape of summertime Norway. Its cop hero (Skarsgård) drifts into mental meltdown as he probes a teenager's murder; it's his controlled performance that galvanises this otherwise underpowered thriller. West End: Metro

THE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALING (NC)

Director: Franz Reiche

Starring: Terzin Chodak

Reiche's documentary serves up a crash course in Tibetan medicine. The Dalai Lama and his personal doctor make for reliable sources, but the whole thing proves too info-heavy and indigestible. West End: Renoir

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Director: Jørn Krabbe

Starring: Isabella Rossellini, Maximilian Schell

Krabbe's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebb and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fidul as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers (Topol, Schell, Rossellini, Krabbe) plus rising star Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

THE ODD COUPLE II (15)

Director: Howard Da Silva

Starring: Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon

The follow-up to Neil Simon's Sixties flat-share favourite dispatches its mismatched couple off to a wedding and then strands them in the desert. From this set-up come all manner of comedy set pieces. The two stars work hard to keep it upright. West End: Plaza

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE PLAYERS CLUB (18)

The virginal writing-directing gig from LA rapper Ice Cube is a right muddle. On the face of it, *The Players Club* affects to lift the lid on America's seedy black-pinstripe pants, and shakes its head disapprovingly at the sight. Trouble is that Mr Cube can't drag his camera away from all that sweet, honeyed flesh for long enough to make his point. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

PRIMARY COLORS (15)

As Jack Stanton, John Travolta's performance amounts to a vaudeville impersonation of Clinton, and you can't take your eyes off him. The film does brilliant things with narrative, symbolism and farce, but doesn't leave its audience to draw their own conclusions. West End: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Steven Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched to seek out a young private and return him home to safety. Few viewers will be warned by catharsis – it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences that are branded on the memory. West End: Plaza

SMALL SOLDIERS (PG)

Inventive children's adventure about a batch of toy soldiers brought to life by a military microchip. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

SNAKE EYES (15)

De Palma's conspiracy thriller plays its plotline as a kind of jigsaw, slotting together flashbacks, split screens and action replays to create the background to a political assassination. Nic Cage plays a swaggering local cop whose investigation brings him up against Gary Sinise's Navy commander. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

This film's defining characteristic is a resilient morality. It's peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, is in the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

STILL CRAZY (15)

This Clement and Le Freais-scripted comedy, about a bunch of 1970s rockers who reform their band, boasts charm in abundance and a clatter of raucous gags. West End: Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)

In Disney's innovative animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This has it all: pro-active heroine, strong father/daughter relationship, honour and cross-dressing. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

Ken Loach's social-realist drama focuses on Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new romance with a middle-class health visitor. It brilliantly evokes a Britain below the poverty line. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Haymarket

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

The story of Brian Slade (Jonathan Rhys Myers), a Bowie-esque idol, and his friend Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor), a self-destructive US rocker; is unravelled by a journalist (Christian Bale) 10 years after the hoax assassination of Slade. Director Todd Haynes has fashioned a masterpiece in which form and content function as inseparable harmony. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

This decent remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* stars Michael Douglas as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his heiress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. West End: ABC Panton Street, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Xan Brooks

"I GO where I will and I do as I please. That's why I'm in trouble," quips the braying, bragging title character of *Henry Fool* (left), so kicking off Hal Hartley's most wild, witty and perfectly sustained film to date. Nominally about a lowly garbageman (James Urbaniak) who writes a masterpiece, chiefly about art, integrity and inspiration, *Henry Fool* steers its own oddball course throughout. It takes in some startling sights along the way.

On general release

Bottlemen, playing at the London Film Festival, is a queer critter from the Czech Republic. Director Petr Zelenka strings together a daisy-chain of six (count 'em) stories stretching from Forties Hiroshima to present-day Prague. A thick band of lugubrious black humour connects its disparate, mercurial strands.

NFT, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 4.14pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

IT MIGHT seem a safe bet to launch a new repertory company with *The Seagull* (below), but Chekhov's comedy – which he modestly describes as "a lot of talk about literature, not much action, and five bushels of love" – is such an ineffable combination of moods that to have struck a balance between paths and bathos, as director Jude Kelly

has done, is no mean feat. Ian McKellen inevitably makes a splash as the bemused Doctor Dorn, but the whole ensemble works to create beautifully overlapping ripples of dissatisfaction.

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds (0113-213 7700) 7.45pm

One of the highlights of the BAC's "One Woman" festival – dedicated to female monologues and cabaret turns – must be Cyndi Freeman's Greetings from Hollywood, a guided tour of the seedier side of Tinsel Town and the damaged egos that fester there by a former made-for-TV soft-porn star.

BAC, London SW1 (0171-223 2223) to Sun, 9pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) \diamond Betsie Park Antz 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Elizabeth 2pm, 5.10pm. Hop! Floats 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Primary Colors 8pm.

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) \diamond Harrow on the Hill Bade Myan Cho! Myan 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm. Fire 8pm, 10pm.

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) \diamond Harrow on the Hill Antz 1.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.25pm. Blade 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 7pm, 9.35pm. 12.10am. Elizabeth 4pm, 6.50pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 9.15pm, 11.55pm. Halloween: H20 12mid-night. Hop! Floats 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm, 11.30pm. Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm, 4.35pm. A Perfect Murder 9.45pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm. Small Soldiers 1.20pm, 4pm. Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm, 11.10pm. There's Something About Mary 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm, 11.45pm. The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 10pm.

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Archway Antz 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm. Blade 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm. Elizabeth 1.15pm, 4.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. H20 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Hope Floats 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. Hop! Floats 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. Small Soldiers 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.35pm, 7.50pm, 10.05pm. There's Something About Mary 7.05pm, 9.45pm. The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 10pm.

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Gants Hill Antz 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm. Blade 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 2.20pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.10pm, 5.50pm. 12.10am. Elizabeth 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. Small Soldiers 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. H20 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Hope Floats 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. Hop! Floats 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm.

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm. Blade 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm.

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Antz 11.50am, 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 7.50pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, 11.45pm. Halloween: H20 4.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm. Hope Floats 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.20pm. Small Soldiers 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm.

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Putney \diamond Putney Bridge Antz 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm Elizabeth 2.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm. Hope Floats 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm.

RAMFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Richmond Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

REEDS
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Reed Green Antz 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Richmond Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

RIMMINGTON
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Rimmington Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

RIVINGTON
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Rivington Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Antz 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm. Blade 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Hop! Floats 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm.

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) \diamond Romford Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm.

ROTHFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Rothford Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

ROYAL
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Royal Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

RYAN
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Ryan Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

SALFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Salford Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

SANDWICH
ODEON (08705 050007) \diamond Sandwich Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.10pm. Snake Eyes 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm.

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14/11/98 15/11/98

SATELLITE TV, RADIO/19

FRIDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Jo Whalley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00-7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2
(88.9-90.2MHz FM)

6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart: Entertainment news, a Brain Buster, the Friday final of the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates. 5.05 Des Lynam. 7.00 Hubert Gregg. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night: Live from the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. Richard Baker introduces the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by Barry Wordsworth, with guest artists Anna Maria Kaufmann, Adrian Martin and Gheorghe Zamfir on the pan pipes. At 8.15, during the interval, Leonard Pearcey introduces an item by the Radio 2 Young Musician 1998, violinist Kaheeh Han. 4.35 Wuthering Heights. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. More from the London Symphony Orchestra's Shostakovich retrospective, conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich. Mstislav Rostropovich (cello), London Symphony Orchestra/Ryuichi Numajiri and Mstislav Rostropovich. Shostakovich: Cello Concerto No 1; Symphony No 11 (The Year 1905).

EVENTS

LAW & CRIME
MURKIN'S
ATTACKED
BY A WOMAN
IN THE STREETS
OF LONDON

MUSIC

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Karate Kid II (1986). 8.00 That Thing You Do! (1990). 4.00 Switched (1995). 9.30 The King Ralph (1991). 12.00 4.00 Switched (1998). 6.00 What the Devil Men Want (1997). 5.05 8.00 That Thing You Do! (1995). 10.00 Dennis Dugan (1997). 7.30 Evil in Me (1998). 11.00 See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1998). 12.00 4.00 Screamer (1995). (C37/0846).

SKY MOVIES

6.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973). 7.30 White Dwarf (1995). 6.45(2022). 9.35 No More Bathers (1997) (5232077). 11.00 Burry Me in Niagara (1992) (70868). 1.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes (1973) (36223). 3.00 White Dwarf (1995) (43328). 5.00 No More Bathers (1997) (56769). 7.00 p/j review (5315). 7.30 UK Top Ten (2023). 8.00 Femmes Fatales (5313). 8.30 Cheech and Chong's The Corsican Brothers (1984) (45587). 10.00 Bulletproof (1998). House of 1225 Twin Town (1997) (58400). 1.00 The Krays (1980) (4462). 3.05 - 6.00 See No Evil, Hear No Evil (1998). 12.00 The Naked Runner (1967) (5803463). 1.00 I Walk the Line (1970) (5496563). 10.00 Days of Glory" (1994) (522309). 1.10 Marathon Man (1976) (7748400). 1.30 Pompei Express (1953) (5337676). 3.20-4.35 Top Hat" (1954) (585620).

FILMFOUR

6.00 Short Attention Span Cinema (704226). 7.30 It's Only a Game (5830077). 8.00 Fever Pitch (1996) (3630752). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Metador (1986) (5828481). 9.35 Last Seduction (1995) (5679226). 1.20 Cronos (1993) (363204). 2.30 No Dark (1997) (688380). 6.30 - 6.00 Crystal Voyager (1974) (3623282).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

4.00 Rex Hunts Fishing World (8865461). 4.30 Wheel Nut (6861685). 5.00 Fast Flights (347152). 5.30 Ancient Warriors (977145). 6.00 Animal Doctor (9771505). 6.30 Orcas: Killers I Have Known (861426). 7.30 Beyond 2000 (9822309). 8.00 The Best of Discovery: The Monarchs to Story (5915042). 9.00 Crocodile Hunter (800708). 10.00 The Great Egyptian (6905665). 11.00 The Century of Warfare (7566110). 12.00 Real Lives (8177086).

PICK OF THE DAY

DAVID MUNROW was a talented musician and talker who virtually invented the field of music so far as the public was concerned - some of his recordings with the Early Music Consort of London remain classics, while his music programme *Pied Piper* on Radio 3, infected people of all ages with his enthusiasm for music. His life is the subject of today's Sound Stories (11am R3), this week

concentrating on musicians who died young - Munrow qualified by killing himself at the age of 33. Spin-doctoring has now become acceptable enough to get its own panel game: *True Lies* (6.30pm R4) has David Arquette (right) inviting guests to translate the week's news, launch their own damage limitation exercises and explain buzzwords.

ROBERT HANKS



9.20 Postscript. David Gale talks to five leading thinkers about their own radical vision of the future. 5. Taken to hanging himself from meat hooks and writhing his body to a computer which manipulates his limbs, Stelarc sees himself as a 'body artist working in the digital medium'. He believes that the human body is obsolete and should be replaced by robotic, prosthetic equivalents.

9.45 Reynaldo Hahn. Fêtes galantes; Nocturne; Mai; L'Heure exquise; Offrande; Si me vars avalent des allees. Susan Graham (mezzo); Roger Vignoles (piano). 10.00 Magnus Lindberg Composer Portrait. Anthony Burton presents the second of two BBC Symphony Orchestra 'Composer Portraits'. This programme celebrates the vibrant music of the Finnish composer Magnus Lindberg, conducted by his compatriot Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Featured works are 'Corrente II', 'Arena', 'Maree' and 'Fere'. 11.30 Mississippi Goddam. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Monteverdi. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Flying Starts. (R)
11.30 Grits. (R)
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Screen Test.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.30 Afternoon Play: In Singapore.

3.00 NEWS: Making History.

3.30 Dedicated to...

3.45 Feedback.

4.00 NEWS: Open Book.

4.30 The Message.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 True Lies. See Pick of the Day.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.30 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the nightly arts programme.

7.45 Still Waters. By Sergio Casci.

Kate Taylor runs a magazine that draws its stories from the ancient mysteries of the Scottish border hills. But Kate also has a personal mystery to solve - why did her husband, Peter, disappear seven years ago? With Ann Scott-Jones and Emma Currie. Director Patrick Rayner. Part 5.

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Wickham, Hampshire, by panellists including Lord Jenkins and Lady Tumaini.

8.45 Letter from America. Alastair Cook with another slice of Americana.

9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: Mother Teresa in Kilburn. By John Dove. A chance encounter leads Kate to Mother Teresa's shelter for the homeless in Kilburn - and to Jack and Peter with Isabel Pollen, Leena Dhingra, Lesley Vickery.

and Trevor Martin. Director Michael Crompton.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Le Grand Meuhnes. Philip Franks reads Alain-Fournier's classic story, abridged by Doreen Estall (5/10).

11.00 Late Tackle. Eleanor Oldroyd hosts another edition of the late-night sports chat show. Rugby union is one of the sports discussed tonight as England begin their qualifying campaign for the 1999 World Cup.

11.30 Notes from the Ditch.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: News of a Kidnapping.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

1.30 World News.

1.45 Prayer for the Day.

1.57 Leisure Update.

5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

VIRGIN RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 To Be Continued. 1.45 Poems by Post.

2.00 Newday. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.05

World Business Report. 3.15

Sports Roundup. 3.30 Science in Action. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30

Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30

Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

TALK RADIO

7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm.

11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd.

5.00 Peter Deely. 7.00 Nick Abbott. 10.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 -

6.00 Mike Dickin.

Alan is joined by guests in the studio to talk over the main sporting points of the week and also look ahead to the weekend's action, including the rugby union and rugby league international fixtures.

10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Perfectalk. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CCLASSIC FM

(1000-1010MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert: Salle: Piano Concerto in B flat. Pietro Spada. Philharmonia. Truscott: Elegy for String Orchestra. National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland/Gary Brain. Lully: *Les Indes Galantes*. Donna Brown (soprano). Choir and Orchestra of the Chapel Royal/Philippe Herreweghe. Granados: Violin Sonata. Joaquin Palomares (violin). Michel Wagemaans (piano). Alkan: Sonatine. Bernard Ringeisen (piano). Delius: *Paris* (The Song of a Great City). RPO/Norman Del Mar. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 To Be Continued. 1.45 Poems by Post.

2.00 Newday. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.05

World Business Report. 3.15

Sports Roundup. 3.30 Science in Action. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30

Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30

Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Crossroads (7682348). 7.30 Neighbours (8593139). 9.35 EastEnders (8597561). 9.30 The Bill (760732). 9.00 The Big (689752). 9.30 The Bergers (5306162). 10.20 The Queen (5306163). 11.35 Neighbours (8593140). 12.25 EastEnders (5690504). 12.00 Juicy (261510). 2.00 Dates (710485). 2.30 The Bill (706485). 3.05 The Bill (706485). 4.55 EastEnders (448229). 5.30 Angels (577503). 6.00 Due South (707891). 7.30 Last of the Summer Wine (710585). 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot (710585). 8.30 Last of the Summer Wine (710585). 9.30 Men Behaving Badly (5233684). 9.40 Dr Who (710585). 10.45 Whatever Happened to the Likely Ladd? (561680). 11.25 The Bill (457706). 11.55 The Bill (2452326). 12.25 Dr Who Omnibus (7105842). 3.00 Shopping (3777004).

UK GOLD

2.00 Crossroads (7682348). 7.30 Neighbours (8593139). 9.35 EastEnders (8597561). 9.30 The Bill (760732). 9.00 The Big (689752). 9.30 The Bergers (5306162). 10.20 The Queen (5306163). 11.35 Neighbours (8593140). 12.25 EastEnders (5690504). 12.00 Juicy (261510). 2.00 Dates (710485). 2.30 The Bill (706485). 3.05 The Bill (706485). 4.55 EastEnders (448229). 5.30 Angels (577503). 6.00 Due South (707891). 7.30 Last of the Summer Wine (710585). 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot (710585). 8.30 Last of the Summer Wine (710585). 9.30 Men Behaving Badly (5233684). 9.40 Dr Who (710585). 10.45 Whatever Happened to the Likely Ladd? (561680). 11.25 The Bill (457706). 11.55 The Bill (2452326). 12.25 Dr Who Omnibus (7105842). 3.00 Shopping (3777004).

LIVING

1.00 Tiny Living (204348). 6.00 The Phoenix Show (520544). 6.30 The Phoenix Show (520544). 6.30 Home and Away (520544). 7.30 The Soap Special (520544). 8.00 - 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (768375).

SKY SPORTS 3

